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Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives for NAM Meeting

JN1205174792 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1655 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Jakarta, 12 May (SANA)—[Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Indonesia this evening at the head of a Syrian delegation to a meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM]. The meeting of nonaligned countries will be held at the level of foreign ministers to make preparations for the NAM's 10th summit, due to be held in the Indonesian capital in September.

The bureau's meeting will be preceded by a meeting of the ministerial committee, tasked with formulating a policy for the NAM, scheduled to begin its activities on Wednesday. This committee groups together 28 countries, including Syria.

The seven-member Arab committee is expected to hold a meeting at the foreign ministers' level on the sidelines of the NAM's ministerial meetings.

In this context, Faruq al-Shar' met with Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya and exchanged viewpoints with him on recent developments in the crisis between Libya and several Western countries, as well as on the need for reaching a peaceful settlement to this crisis.

Stresses Importance of NAM's Role

JN1405104692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] Jakarta—[Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has stressed the importance of the Nonaligned Movement and the need to activate it and abort the attempts seeking to marginalize its role on the international scene.

In a speech he delivered today before the committee charged with setting a methodology for the Nonaligned Movement, al-Shar' said that the world, after the end of the cold war, is still going through a transitional phase which is not necessarily more stable than the previous one. He said the optimism reflected by the final statement issued by the 1989 Nonaligned Summit in Belgrade has been absent from the speeches delivered by all delegations at this meeting.

Al-Shar' pointed out that the Nonaligned Movement member states, which constitute the majority of the world's population and the UN members, cannot impose their views in the UN Security Council or prevent a resolution that runs contrary to their basic interests.

He said some of the big powers try to impose their forms of democracy on many Third World countries at a time when they refuse to introduce democracy to the United Nations or deal democratically with the other states.

The foreign minister urged the Nonaligned Movement to denounce the double standards pursued in international relations. He said the UN Security Council will not hesitate to impose sanctions in accordance with Chapter Seven of the Charter against any Nonaligned Movement member state if it tries to act in a manner similar to Israel's.

Concluding his speech, the foreign minister called for finding the appropriate mechanism that would give the Nonaligned Movement member states a role in the United Nations and the Security Council that befits their status and size. He stressed that the absence of democracy from international relations will not help bolster security and stability in the world.

Iranian Minister Arrives To Attend NAM Meeting

LD1305132592 Tehran IRNA in English 1208 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] Nusa Dua, Bali, May 13, IRNA—[Iranian] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived here Wednesday afternoon to attend the ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Outlining Iran's views at the committee of the methodology to make the movement more efficient in an attempt to achieve its primary principles, he said "the Non-Aligned Movement still lacks the required ability to follow up its decisions and utilise the existing potentialities in the best possible manner."

"As we move towards a new international order, we must make sure that the world's majority will have a solid and deserved contribution."

In this regard the primary need is to make greater efforts to converge the views of the member states on the basis of the principles and goals of the Non-Aligned Movement, he said.

Foreign Minister Velayati is to meet with President Suharto and Foreign Minister Ali Alatas later today.

Meets Indonesian President

NC1405062092 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, in Indonesia for the Nonaligned Movement's foreign ministers' meeting, met the Indonesian president yesterday, the two sides explaining their views on the movement. Suharto stressed that Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's presence at the upcoming Nonaligned summit in Jakarta is important. He said: We rely on cooperating with Iran to convene this conference.

The 10th Nonaligned Movement summit is to be held in Indonesia in Shahrivar [month ending 22 September] this year.

During his meeting with Velayati, the Indonesian president said he was satisfied bilateral relations were expanding and called for Tehran and Jakarta to cooperate further on regional and international issues.

Yugoslav Delegation Attends NAM Meeting

LD1405082392 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0641 GMT 14 May 92

["Pool" item]

[Text] Nusa Dua, Bali, May 14 (TANJUG)—A two-day meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned countries at the level of foreign ministers began on the Indonesian Island of Bali on Thursday.

The ministerial conference was opened by President of the Republic of Indonesia Suharto, and is chaired by Yugoslav Deputy Foreign Secretary Branko Lukovac.

Yugoslavia chairs the Non-Aligned Movement until its next summit, set for September this year in Jakarta, when the chair will be taken over by Indonesia, the host country of this ministerial conference.

The agenda of the meeting includes nine issues: from a review of the general international situation and the role of the movement in realizing the new world order, to the situation in South Africa and observance of human rights.

The meeting will be addressed by the head of the Yugoslav delegation, member of the state presidency Borisav Jovic.

NAM Admits PNG, Guatemala as Members

BK1205155692 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0858 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Nusa Dua (Bali), May 12 (OANA/ANTARA) - The Nonaligned Movement [NAM] in the first meeting of the Coordinating Bureau at the ambassadorial and senior official level here Tuesday accepted Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Guatemala as its full members and resumed the membership of Cambodia.

NAM, during the meeting chaired by Indonesia, also agreed to include the People's Republic of China as an observer, Yugoslav Ambassador to Indonesia Vjekoslav Koprivnjak said following the first meeting of the NAM Coordinating Bureau.

Attended by representatives of 73 countries, the meeting discussed, among other things, the composition of the Bureau of the NAM ministerial meeting, the admission of new members, and participation by observers and guests as well as the adoption of the agenda.

Responding to the press' questions, Ambassador Koprivnjak said the meeting did not discuss anything about Croatia and Slovenia.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh, who is heading a six-member Cambodian delegation to the NAM meeting here, earlier stressed the need for Cambodia to revert to the nonaligned stance it adhered to until the overthrow of Prince Sihanouk, Ranariddh's father.

With the resumption of Cambodia's membership and the admission of Guatemala and PNG, the number of NAM's members is now 106 developing countries.

Guatemala is a republic country located in Central America and has a population of around 9.5 million, while PNG, which shares border with Indonesia, is a parliamentary democracy state with a population of around four million.

Suharto Opens First Day of NAM Meeting

BK1405044892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0359 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Nusa Dua, Indonesia, May 14 (AFP)—Indonesian President Suharto called on the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) Thursday to revise its priorities realistically in order to face the rapid political and economic changes in the international situation.

"In facing both the opportunities and challenges subsumed in the evolving international situation, our movement will have to make a clear-sighted and realistic assessment of their implications and to adapt our policies and agenda accordingly," he said.

He was opening a two-day ministerial meeting of the movement's coordinating bureau, attended by foreign ministers or their representatives of its 103 member states which is drawing up an agenda for the heads of state summit in Jakarta in September.

Suharto said that the 31-year-old movement should engage in realistic reordering of its priorities, to pursue its goals and safeguard the fundamental interests of member states.

Noting that the NAM's basic principles and objectives "have lost nothing of their validity and relevance," Suharto said the movement should continue to strive for a new international order where peaceful coexistence, democratization, cooperation and equitably shared development prevailed.

He said if the aim was to turn into a tangible reality, then the United Nations constituted the most effective instrument. So he urged NAM members to help strengthen, revitalize, and democratize the world body.

Suharto also stressed the importance of South-South economic cooperation based on the concept of self-reliance to open up "new avenues of growth and reduce undue dependence vis-a-vis the North."

Adverse development in the world economic stuation has "further compounded the difficulties confronting the developing countries," Suharto said.

Although better off than in the 1980s, developing countries were still saddled by debilitating debt burdens, strapped for development finance, denied fair access to the market of developed countries, and frustrated by a decline in commodity export prices, he said.

The movement, Suharto said, cannot afford to be passive on new global concerns as in the environment, the promotion of human rights, democracy, and "so-called good governance."

He urged NAM to formulate common positions and approaches, in view of the "growing tendency among developed countries to link these issues as political conditionalities to the sphere of development cooperation."

The NAM ministerial meeting is expected to set up the agenda for the group's upcoming summit in Jakarta in September.

Indonesia, who will officially take over NAM chairmanship from Yugoslavia in September, has already held the de-facto leadership of the movement following the severe internal problems in Yugoslavia.

Meanwhile the new republic of Croatia, formerly part of the Yugoslav Federation, one of NAM's founder members, has formally asked to be given observer status within the movement.

Foreign Minister Zvonimir Separovic said in a letter to the coordinating bureau this would allow Croatia to make a constructive contribution to the movement

Separovic told AFP that the delegation which claims to represent Yugoslavia at the meeting, "in fact only represents Serbia which is acting so aggressively in Bosnia-Hercegovina."

He said Yugoslavia no longer existed, and all the states emerging from the former republics were the federation's successors.

Nicaragua Urges NAM To Avoid Bureaucracy

BK1405092892 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0356 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Nusa Dua (Bali), May 13 (OANA-ANTARA)—Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua Dr. Jose Pallais has said the Non-Aligned Movement [NAM] should avoid the establishment of certain institutions which could cause bureaucracy, in an effort to enhance its role and make it effective.

"It has become our basic position to avoid various forms of bureaucracy in NAM," Pallais said here Wednesday commenting on a proposal that NAM should set up a secretariat.

Dr. Jose Pallais is of the view that it is sufficient for NAM to set up working committees based on its priorities.

"It is not necessary for NAM to set up a particular secretariat such as those of some international organizations," he said.

The setting up of such institutions would lead to bureaucratic mechanism which could reduce the movement's flexibility, he explained.

"So, as far as Nicaragua is concerned, the establishment of working committees as proposed by Cyprus is enough for NAM," he added.

Pallais, who talked with the press following his meeting with Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, said the setting up of working committees could be applied especially for NAM's proposals concerning the restructuring of the United Nations and the role of NAM in the emerging new world order.

He stressed that the most important thing for NAM to strengthen its existence is to concentrate on the efficiency of its work.

Pallais expressed full support to the documents presented by Indonesia in preparation for the NAM summit in Jakarta in September.

"Nicaragua is sure that under the chairmanship of Indonesia, NAM will be able to lead the movement better and overcome various problems faced by it and its member countries in the international arena.

The documents which have been discussed during the meeting of the NAM coordinating bureau at the ambassadorial and senior officials level, can become a basic direction and orientation for NAM in the future, he said.

Touching on the applications for membership from the Papua New Guinea and Guatemala, he said Nicaragua will certainly welcome them.

"Especially with regard to Guatemala, which is also a Latin American country, we will offer our support and assistance so that Guatemala could play an active role in NAM," he added.

Indian Minister Urges Focus on Terrorism

BK1305095192 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] India today opposed the move to set up any mechanism within the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] to settle bilateral disputes among member nations. Speaking at the NAM foreign ministers meeting in Bali, Indonesia, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, said that such a move will detract the NAM from the crucial global issues in the areas of peace and development. Supporting the idea of a joint coordination committee between NAM and the Group of 77, India pointed out that there was no need for merging NAM with G-77.

In an amendment to a draft proposal for consideration of the ministerial meeting, India has also suggested that NAM should focus its attention on threats to sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations caused by terrorism, aided and abetted from abroad. Describing terrorism as pernicious and most dangerous threat to human rights of innocent civilians, the amendment asks the international community to condemn terrorism.

Japan

Foreign Ministry Asks U.S. for Return of Bases

OW1305153492 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 13 May 92 Evening Edition p 1

[Text] The Foreign Ministry disclosed on 13 May that requests have been made to the U.S. side concerning the following points to highlight the 20th anniversary of Okinawa's reversion:

1. The return of Kadena Marina;
2. The return of Naha Naval Port;
3. The removal of the urban guerrilla warfare training facilities in Onna Village;
4. The discontinuance of live shelling exercises across Prefectural Highway 104; and
5. The discontinuance of parachute training over Yomitan auxiliary airfield.

Saneyoshi Furugen, member of the House of Representatives from the Japanese Communist Party, obtained confirmation of this report from Yukio Sato, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's North American Affairs Bureau, on 13 May. It is expected that the U.S. side will declare its reply to these requests during the talks between Vice President Dan Quayle and Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa scheduled for the morning of 14 May and during the vice president's speech at the Reversion Commemoration Ceremony on 15 May.

Mr. Furugen said: "The Foreign Ministry authorities seem to have selected those requests that Okinawan residents have most strongly demanded, including the return of military bases and discontinuance of military exercises." Expressing his feelings, Mr. Furugen added that "it is most likely that the urban warfare training facilities will be removed and parachute training in Yomitan will be discontinued."

Concerning these requests, Director General Sato reportedly said: "In the next two or three days, it will be disclosed what decision has been made on these five points."

Watanabe Thanks U.S. for Returning Okinawa

OW1405120092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1145 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 14 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe thanked the United States on Thursday for returning Okinawa to Japan in 1972 and said he hopes the 20th anniversary of the islands' reversion will strengthen their ties.

Watanabe, in a speech at a reception to commemorate Friday's anniversary, said the reversion of Okinawa "was made possible by the foresight and courage of the United States, which attached importance to maintaining long-term ties with Japan."

He expressed Japan's "deep respect and gratitude to the American people for their goodwill and friendship, which helped realize this historical accomplishment."

"I strongly hope that this 20th anniversary will-...strengthen further the global partnership between Japan and the United States," Watanabe told the participants, which included U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

Miyazawa, in talks earlier in the day with Quayle, said it was unprecedented in history for a war victor to return territory captured from a vanquished nation. He said Japan appreciates the U.S. magnanimity.

More than 110,000 Japanese and about 12,500 U.S. soldiers were killed in the battle for Okinawa in the closing months of World War II.

Advisory Council Comments on Foreign Lawyers

OW1305152692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1430 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 13 KYODO—An advisory council to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will soon urge for the creation of a quasi-governmental panel to discuss whether foreign lawyers should be allowed to run a law office here by teaming up with a Japanese lawyer, according to a council document.

The document, obtained by KYODO News Service, was prepared by a subcommittee of the ad hoc committee on promotion of administrative reform, led by Eiji Suzuki, former president of the Japan Federation of Employers Associations.

The recommendation calls for setting up a "third-party panel" consisting of government officials, academics, and some officials of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, the document says.

The United States has been calling on Japan to lift the regulation on foreign lawyers wishing to establish a law office in conjunction with a Japanese lawyer during the Structural Impediments Initiative Talks designed to whittle down nontariff barriers on access to Japanese markets.

The council's recommendations also call for extending the term of validity of passports from the current five years to 10 years, it said.

It also recommends that the government abolish a legal requirement that car owners have their cars inspected by private maintenance plants every six months, and for simplification of items required to be checked under the mandatory checkup.

The move is apparently in response to criticism that the requirement has enabled some maintenance plants to demand expensive payments from car owners despite the absence of major malfunctioning parts.

New car owners in Japan are required to have their cars inspected by local car maintenance and repair plants every two years after an initial three-year use period.

The recommendation also calls for limiting the checkups items to those needed to regulate pollution-causing car exhaust emissions and to bolster car safety functions, it added.

It also proposed that the government extend the hours during which counters for import inspections are open at major international airports, according to the document.

The council's recommendation also proposes that the government set up a system to ensure Japanese residing overseas can cast ballots to participate in national elections, it said.

Sovereignty 'Precondition' for Territories Talks

OW1405063592 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] At the Liberal Democratic Party's [LDP] meeting on foreign affairs held today, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe referred to the northern territories issue, saying that "Russia's approval of Japan's sovereignty over the four northern islands should be a precondition for promoting bilateral negotiations."

Some members participating in the meeting said that Japan should actively indicate grounds for its assertion that the four northern islands are inherently Japanese territories. Other participants asked not to seek hasty conclusions in order to avoid a situation in which Japan might be forced to make unnecessary compromises.

In response, Foreign Minister Watanabe said that the government intended to maintain its principle of linking political and economic issues. He continued by saying that Russia should approve Japan's sovereignty over the islands in one package. In this way, he indicated that although Japan would respond flexibly to the Russian side's measures to return the islands to Japan, its approval of Japan's sovereignty over the four islands should be a precondition for further bilateral negotiations.

Rift With DPRK on Nuclear Checkups Continues

OW1305131792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1257 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] Beijing, May 13 KYODO—Japan and North Korea differed Wednesday over linking Pyongyang's implementation of an accord with South Korea on mutual inspections of nuclear facilities to Tokyo-Pyongyang relations, Japanese officials said.

The bickering came on the opening day of the two-day, seventh round of diplomatic normalization talks at the Japanese Embassy in Beijing.

North Korea's chief delegate, Yi Sam-no, said Japan should drop its opposition to reviving diplomatic ties, if Pyongyang allows an inspection team from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to check its nuclear facilities.

Yi also said international concerns about North Korean nuclear facilities are being eased now that Pyongyang has submitted an inventory of its facilities to the nuclear watchdog body.

Chief Japanese negotiator Noboru Nakahira, a veteran diplomat, told Yi that Pyongyang must accept both IAEA checks and an inspection by South Korean experts under a North-South agreement signed March 14 to hold mutual inspections of nuclear facilities.

The accord calls for holding mutual inspections by the first week of June.

Japan finds it difficult to normalize diplomatic ties with North Korea, unless North Korea solves the nuclear inspection issue, Nakahira said, urging Pyongyang to dispel all remaining suspicions by accepting both inspections.

"The international community has not yet been freed from its anxieties about the North Korean nuclear weapons development issue.

"Japan cannot accept the North Korean request that the two nations should first establish diplomatic relations before discussing other matters of concerns on our agenda," Nakahira said.

The rift came as IAEA Director General Hans Blix is visiting North Korea.

The North's Korean Central News Agency [KCNA] reported Wednesday that Blix has toured several nuclear facilities in the country.

The United States, South Korea and Japan have alleged that North Korea is trying to develop nuclear weapons but Pyongyang has denied the allegations.

North Korea's Yongbyon Nuclear Plant is one focus of international concern, Japanese officials said.

On Monday, North Korea issued a statement demanding that the United States and South Korea allow it to conduct simultaneous inspections of U.S. military bases in South Korea at the same time it opens its facilities to international inspections.

Yi criticized Japan for "placing an artificial obstacle hampering the progress of the diplomatic negotiations" in apparent reference to Japan's refusal to backpedal from its demand for both IAEA and South Korean inspections of the North's nuclear facilities.

In a meeting with South Korean reporters, Yi said, "If the IAEA inspection was carried out fairly and if mutual nuclear facilities checkups by North and South Korean experts were conducted, any country would no longer complain" about nuclear proliferation fears.

Nakahira also urged North Korea to comply with a Japanese request to allow Japanese women married to North Korean citizens to visit their relatives in Japan.

"How will North Korea deal with the issue of allowing Japanese spouses of North Korean citizens to temporarily return home?" he asked.

He called on Yi to solve the issue "from the humanitarian standpoint."

Japanese negotiators also demanded that North Korea provide information on a Japanese woman who, Japanese police say, was kidnapped from Japan to train a confessed North Korean terrorist in the Japanese language and customs.

The terrorist, Kim Hyon-hui, has told the South Korean courts and Japanese police investigators that she blew up a South Korean airliner in 1988 by posing as a Japanese traveler.

North Korean delegates again repudiated the charge, saying the 1988 bombing was an incident concocted by the South Korean Government to mar Pyongyang's prestige.

Tokyo Delays Normalizing Ties

OW1305043492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0228 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] Beijing, May 13 KYODO—A Japanese Government delegate told his North Korean counterpart Wednesday that Japan cannot normalize relations with North Korea until it allows international inspections of its nuclear facilities.

At the outset of the seventh round of bilateral normalization talks held in Beijing, Noboru Nakahira, the chief Japanese negotiator, reiterated Japan's call for Pyongyang to accept nuclear inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

He told Yi Sam-no, his North Korean counterpart, that this would implement the declaration for a nuclear-free Korean peninsula and a reconciliation and nonaggression treaty with South Korea, both put into effect in February.

While hailing North Korea's ratification in April of a nuclear safeguards accord with the Vienna-based IAEA, Nakahira said, "It is difficult for Japan to normalize relations with North Korea without resolving this issue."

North Korea has not set a date for allowing international inspection of its nuclear facilities since it signed the safeguards accord, which stipulates IAEA inspections, in January.

The United States, South Korea, and Japan have alleged that North Korea is trying to develop nuclear weapons at its facilities. North Korea has denied these charges.

Nakahira also asked Pyongyang to separate the issue of home visits by Japanese women married to North Koreans from the normalization negotiations as a way to speed an early settlement from the humanitarian standpoint.

An estimated 6,000 Japanese women went to North Korea with their husbands in the 1960s and have not been allowed even brief visits to Japan.

North Korea reportedly indicated the possibility of allowing the women to visit their homeland when Social Democratic Party Chairman Makoto Tanabe visited North Korea in April.

Nakahira rejected a North Korean proposal to open diplomatic channels first and discuss other bilateral issues later.

The two-day normalization talks are the first in three and a half months, and are also the first since former North Korean chief negotiator Chon In-chol died in March and Yi took the post.

The negotiators on the first day of the talks will discuss historical views and the legality of the 1910 treaty under which Japan annexed the Korean peninsula, Japanese officials said.

They will also take up such issues as North Korea's claims for compensation from Japan for damage inflicted under the Japanese colonial rule that ended in 1945, and the suspected nuclear capabilities of North Korea, they said.

Tokyo Ready To Discuss 'Comfort Women' Demand

OW1405122892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1215 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Beijing, May 14 KYODO—Japan expressed readiness Thursday to discuss compensation for Korean women forced to provide sexual services for Japanese soldiers during World War II.

During Japan-North Korea talks toward normalizing ties, Japan's chief negotiator Noboru Nakahira told his counterpart Yi Sam-no that Japan is willing to discuss a North Korean demand for compensation of "comfort women," Japanese officials said.

Yi strongly demanded "appropriate compensation" and a "sincere apology" over the issue.

Yi revealed testimony from a 74-year-old Korean woman forced to work at a brothel attached to a Japanese munitions factory in Korea during Japanese colonial rule.

Nakahira said the Japanese Government is investigating the comfort women problem and Tokyo will not reject a North Korean demand for compensation.

Historians say Japan forced an estimated 100,000 to 200,000 Asian women, mostly from Korea, to provide sex for Japanese soldiers during World War II.

In late April, Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said at a Diet committee meeting Japan will in some way express its remorse over the matter.

The talks between Nakahira and Yi at the North Korean Embassy in Beijing on Thursday, the second day of the seventh round of the normalization talks, centered on Japanese compensation for damage inflicted on Korean people during the 1910-1945 Japanese rule.

The two sides agreed to extend the negotiations, originally scheduled to end Thursday, for one day to discuss other problems, including about allowing Japanese women married to North Koreans to visit Japan.

An estimated 6,000 Japanese women went to North Korea with their husbands in the 1960s but have not been allowed to return to Japan even for brief trips.

Miyazawa Says Tokyo To Boost Help to Cambodia

OW1405121092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1153 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 14 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told an opposition leader Thursday he may ask Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe to visit Cambodia at an early date.

Miyazawa made the comment in response to Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida, who recommended Japan dispatch Watanabe to demonstrate Tokyo's political will to provide assistance for reconstruction of the strife-torn nation, a Komeito official said.

Miyazawa also told Ishida that Japan would boost its humanitarian assistance and help train personnel, the official said.

Ishida proposed Japan assist in training Cambodians to safely dispose of land mines and boost its financial contribution from 12.45 percent to 30 percent of the total cost of the U.N. transitional authority in Cambodia.

The leader of the No. 2 opposition party also proposed Japan send a large-scale mission to assess programs for economic reconstruction and invite Cambodians to Japan for study, the official said.

Ishida submitted the proposals to the prime minister following his return Wednesday from a visit to Cambodia, Thailand and Malaysia.

In a separate meeting, Watanabe told Ishida it is necessary to boost the number of diplomats at Japan's Embassy in Phnom Penh from eight at present to around 20, the official said.

Mongolia Requests Supplies From Private Sector

OW1405105892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1039 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 14 KYODO—The Japan-Mongolia Goodwill Association is calling for relief supplies and funds from the private sector to help Mongolians reportedly suffering a serious shortage of food and consumption goods, association officials said Thursday.

The officials said they need the support because government aid is not enough to save the people.

They will accept such contributions as sugar, butter, powdered milk and medical supplies until the end of the month. The aid will be sent to Mongolia on a chartered airplane departing from Akita Airport on June 3, the officials said.

The association's request followed the Japanese Government decision to give free assistance to help meet Mongolia's urgent requests for 10 billion yen worth of food and medical supplies.

The association, a nongovernment body, has long promoted friendship between the two countries, the officials said.

Programs to support Mongolia will also be discussed at a government-sponsored international conference in Tokyo on May 28-29, the officials said.

More than 20 nations and international organizations are expected to participate in the conference. Mongolian Prime Minister Dashiyn Byambasuren is scheduled to attend.

Since 1989, Mongolia has been moving ahead with its democratic reforms accompanied by efforts to shift to a market economy.

However, Mongolia has reportedly been suffering from a shortage of foreign currency for trade settlements as a result of decreasing imports from nations belonging to the former Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, known as Comecon.

Tsuchiya To Run for Saitama Gubernatorial Post

OW1405130292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1230 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 14 KYODO—Yoshihiko Tsuchiya, former president of the House of Councillors, reiterated his resolve Thursday to run in Saitama gubernatorial election in mid-June.

In a 30-minute meeting with Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, head of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's [LDP] No. 3 faction to which he belongs, Tsuchiya said he cannot withdraw from the June 21 election at this point.

In the talks, Mitsuzuka tried to persuade Tsuchiya not to run but Tsuchiya refused to abandon his bid to become governor of the prefecture north of Tokyo, according to LDP officials.

After the talks, Tsuchiya told reporters, "My determination (to run) remains unchanged. I, as a politician, cannot betray 6.5 million Saitama residents."

The meeting between Tsuchiya and Mitsuzuka was arranged after senior LDP officials, including Yoshiro

Mori, chairman of the party's Policy Affairs Research Council, failed Wednesday to make Tsuchiya withdraw.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who concurrently serves as LDP president, also expressed willingness Wednesday to persuade Tsuchiya to retract his candidacy, saying he is responsible for the matter.

On Tuesday, incumbent Saitama Gov. Yawara Hata, 81, said at a news conference he will not seek reelection next month. Hata is serving his fifth four-year term of office.

Hata said his decision has nothing to do with a much-rumored attempt by LDP Vice President Shin Kanemaru to persuade both him and Tsuchiya to withdraw.

The LDP leadership reportedly fears that if Tsuchiya loses the gubernatorial election, it would adversely affect the party's performance in the House of Councillors' election in July.

If Tsuchiya runs in the gubernatorial race, the LDP's strength will drop to 113 in the 252-seat upper house.

Inquiry Continues in Sagawa Kyubin Scandal

OW1305173492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1521 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 13 KYODO—The president of a front company for the nation's second-largest underworld syndicate, Inagawa-kai, allegedly "embezzled" more than 10 billion yen funneled from the scandal-ridden Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., investigative sources said Wednesday. The fund was part of 250 billion yen which Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin allegedly extended to the late Inagawa-kai boss, Susumi Ishii, in the form of loans or loan guarantees, the sources said.

Munenobu Shoji, president of Hokusho Sangyo Co., is also alleged to have pocketed the 10 billion yen in 1988 and 1989 and used it for his personal stock speculation, they said. A number of politicians from both the ruling and opposition camps have admitted to receiving political funds from Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin, which extended a total of 530 billion yen in loans and loan guarantees to 84 corporations and individuals including Ishii and many firms affiliated with the Inagawa-kai gang.

The former president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin, Hiroyasu Watanabe, and the company's former Managing Director Jun Saotome have been in detention since mid-February on suspicion of breach of trust for causing a huge loss to the company through the loans and loan guarantees.

Shoji, 60, is now under arrest on suspicion of conspiracy in a breach of trust case involving Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin. Police investigators regard Hokusho Sangyo as the base for speculative investment management by Ishii to amass the financial resources of the Inagawa-kai. Shoji invested the 10 billion yen in stock speculation and eventually incurred losses through investment blunders after first obtaining some profits, the sources said.

Miyazawa Urges Approval of Finance Reform Bill

OW1405114692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1122 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 14 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa stressed the need Thursday to pass a package of bills that would overhaul the nation's financial system, saying they would help restore public confidence in the financial markets.

Miyazawa made the appeal as the Diet formally opened debate on the government-sponsored legislation that would lower existing legal barriers between the banking and brokerage businesses.

Miyazawa told the House of Representatives that the planned financial reforms should lead to restoring public confidence in the stock and other financial markets as well as to fair competition among financial institutions.

The package of financial reforms, among other things, would allow banks and securities firms to step into each other's field through subsidiaries but bank-owned securities subsidiaries would not be able to act as stock brokers for the time being.

The bills do not forbid banks from bailing out financially troubled brokerages by acquiring existing securities companies as subsidiaries.

Miyazawa, however, stopped short of making clear whether the government will allow such bailouts, saying the government "would deal with such cases carefully."

The issue of whether the Finance Ministry will permit banks to take over existing small brokerages faced with financial hardship has come into the spotlight as many brokerages have been hard hit by the stock market's prolonged slump.

Growing Regional Economic Power Welcomed

OW1405085392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0804 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 14 KYODO—Japan's regional economies have been enhancing their strength for the past year despite the nation's economic slowdown, which has weighed much more heavily on major urban economies, a government report said Thursday.

The 1992 fifth annual report on regional economies, compiled by the Economic Planning Agency, said such economies have strengthened relatively, compared with urban economies. The report analyzed each region's economic trend during 1991.

Industrial structures both in major cities and other localities have considerably changed, with the tertiary industries, especially the financial and insurance sectors, swiftly growing in urban areas, while processing and manufacturing sectors using advanced technology have achieved high growth in regional areas, the report noted.

Regional economies used to be compared to the rear wheels of a jumbo jet, which leave the runway last when taking off and touch it first when landing, meaning economic expansion comes to regional areas late and economic retreat hits the areas first, the report said.

The soaring land prices and labor shortage in major cities, however, as well as development of a nationwide rapid transportation system and diffusion of information in regional areas, have encouraged manufacturers to move into regional localities and underpinned the economies there, it said.

Such movements have also promoted differentiation of roles, with large cities specializing in administrative sectors and other localities in manufacturing sectors, according to the report.

The report said it is necessary for regional economies to further enhance their vitality and to this end, they have to get over several hurdles, such as lack of a younger labor force because of aging in the local community, fewer opportunities for training talented persons, and the need to harmonize production activities and environmental protection.

The report suggested that these difficulties be overcome one by one with appropriate remedies so that localities may enjoy more vigorous economies.

Telecom Equipment Technology Standards Proposed

OW1405085192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0729 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 14 KYODO—A study group of the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry on Thursday proposed a set of measures to ensure safe operation of the nation's telecommunications networks, ministry officials said.

The proposal called for creation of technology standards for communications equipment and tax incentives to promote capital investment to ensure safe operations of communications networks, the officials said.

The proposal was contained in an interim report released by the group, chaired by Prof. Shigeo Tsujii of the Tokyo Institute of Technology, they said.

They also said the report proposed the establishment of an expert panel of officials from telecommunications companies, called carriers, to study measures for trouble-free interface of communications networks.

The officials noted that a total of 72 companies have entered the domestic communications market since 1985, when the government liberalized the market.

They said networks operated by these carriers are interconnected and trouble at one section could halt the operation of all networks.

MITI Seeks Industry Efforts To Protect Ozone

OW1205134292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1305 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 12 KYODO—Japan's trade minister asked industries Tuesday to make further efforts to cut production of chemicals that deplete the earth's ozone layer, a ministry official said.

International Trade and Industry [MITI] Minister Kozo Watanabe asked representatives of makers and users of the chemicals to cooperate in attaining the government's target of stopping production of such chemicals as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and trichloroethane by December 31, 1995, the official said.

Watanabe reportedly called it essential to tighten regulations on ozone-depleting substances, as destruction of the ozone layer is spreading faster than previously thought, possibly endangering people and the rest of the ecosystem.

Japan should set an example for the world by taking the initiative in contributions on this issue with advanced technology, as it has contributed to the global economy, he said.

The industry representatives sought flexible regulations during the phaseout period and assistance in introducing alternative technology and substances, according to the MITI official.

While insisting that they have made efforts to cut ozone destroyers, they generally promised further efforts to promote reduction in production and use of the harmful chemicals, the official said.

The MITI official said Japan's CFC production by the end of last year had fallen to 16 percent below the 1986 level, and will drop to 43 percent below the 1986 base level, while trichloroethane output has yet to be brought down to the 1986 level.

The ministry asked major businesses to transfer technologies to smaller companies that would allow them to replace the deadly chemicals with harmless ones, he said.

In that regard, the official said government low-interest loans are available for small and medium-sized enterprises to help finance facilities for common use.

Among the representatives from 72 industrial groups and companies, users included the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association and the Japan Electrical Manufacturers' Association, while makers included Daikin Industries Ltd. and Kanto Denka Kogyo Co.

Government To Ban CFC's in Ships' Appliances

OW1105134892 Tokyo KYODO in Enylish 1218 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 11 KYODO—The Transport Ministry has notified the shipping industry it will ban the installation

of ship coolers and freezers using chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and halogens, ministry officials said Monday.

The directive will apply to large tankers and passenger vessels constructed after November.

Experts believe the gases contribute to damaging the ozone layer, which shields the earth from harmful ultraviolet rays.

The use of CFCs, mainly as coolants, aerosol propellants, and semiconductor cleaning agents, is to he banned by 2005 under the Montreal Protocol, a pact reached under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Program.

The government in seeking the cooperation of the private sector to reduce demand and supply of the gases to 1986 levels.

The ministry based its directive on a resolution calling for restriction of the gases at a November meeting of the international Maritime Organization in London.

The resolution obligates ships carrying containers with specified types of CFCs and halogens to label them as dangerous starting in July.

North Korea

IAEA's Hans Blix Tours Yongbyon Facilities

SK1305152292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1511 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 13 (KCNA)—Hans Blix, general director of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], and his party staying in Korea went round the Atomic Energy Research Centres in Yongbyon area.

While going round the atomic energy research centres, power station, experimental institute, etc. with keen interest, they were told that scientists, technicians and workers built a nuclear research base in the area in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance in hearty response to the intention of the Workers' Party of Korea to found an independent atomic energy industry.

The general director of the IAEA said:

During the current visit to Korea, we will obtain a deeper knowledge of the realities. At the research centres we went round, we learned well of the achievements made by Korean scientists and the orientation of the development of nuclear energy and its validity.

The nuclear issue of Korea will be widely made public to the world through the IAEA, he stated.

Envoy in Beijing Discusses Nuclear Issue

SK1305161892 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 13 May 92

[News conference by Pae Yong-chae, DPRK charge d'affaires to China, with PRC and foreign reporters in Beijing on 12 May—recorded]

[Text] The DPRK Embassy in Beijing held a news conference on 12 May on nuclear inspection. Participating in the news conference were Chinese reporters of press and broadcasting media and foreign correspondents stationed in China.

Pae Yong-chae, DPRK charge d'affaires to China, spoke at the news conference.

He first referred to the Third Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly and its deliberating and approving the safeguards accord pursuant to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. He also mentioned that we submitted a report on the initial inventory of nuclear material and a list of nuclear facilities to the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] on 4 May. We stressed that this clearly shows the sincere efforts of the DPRK Government in the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

He said that world opinion welcomes and positively appraises the steps we have taken regarding nuclear inspection, and continued: At this time when we are about to receive nuclear inspection by the IAEA, the inspection of U.S. nuclear bases in South Korea is an urgent matter that should no longer be postponed. This inspection is the basis for realizing the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

The DPRK has consistently maintained from the beginning and thereafter that if nuclear inspection is to be conducted fairly, it should be conducted not only on us but simultaneously on the U.S. nuclear bases in South Korea as well.

The North and South should conduct a simultaneous inspection at any rate and we should inspect all U.S. nuclear bases in South Korea.

After emphasizing that the United States and South Korean authorities should not avoid nuclear weapon and base inspection but should quickly come out and allow inspection, he mentioned that the United States and the South Korean authorities failure to conduct an overall inspection that we proposed only adds to our doubts and concerns as to the sincerity of their remarks and acts .

Nuclear inspection on the Korean peninsula must be simultaneous inspection, with an overall inspection of U.S. nuclear weapons and bases in South Korea as a foundation.

He strongly urged the United States and the South Korean authorities accept an overall inspection of the U.S. nuclear weapons and bases in South Korea in accordance with the

current trend toward denuclearization and that thereby they should eliminate the world's doubt.

He answered questions raised by reporters.

U.S., Japanese Remarks on Inspection Criticized

SK1405053992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0453 GMT 14 May 92

["MINJU CHOSON Raps at Remarks of U.S. and Japanese Authorities on Nuclear Inspection"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 14 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON today brands the utterances of some quarters of the United States and Japan who cast doubts even on inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as an act of ignoring the authority of the IAEA and insulting its dignity.

Recalling that RisCassi, commander of the U.S. Forces present in South Korea, and Sakuma, chairman of the Joint Staff Council of Japan, held "talks" some time ago, at which they let out the trash that "it was necessary to watch practical actions" with regard to the nuclear inspection of the DPRK, the news analyst says: This is a sinister act to obstruct a smooth nuclear inspection on the Korean peninsula.

The IAEA will shortly make a nuclear inspection of our country after going through simple practical procedures.

Why do some people of the United States and Japan including RisCassi and Sakuma talk this or that, shutting their eyes to the reality of Korea and doubting the process of the solution of the nuclear inspection problem in our country?

This shows that they do not want a smooth nuclear inspection of us by the IAEA; it was motivated by a vicious aim to put a brake on the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula and realise their nuclear scheme.

By spreading "doubts about nuclear inspection" in our country, the U.S. belligerent quarters seek to step up the conversion of South Korea into a nuclear base behind the scene and round off preparations for a nuclear war and some circles of Japan, in the row over nuclear inspection, intend to divert elsewhere public opinion at home and abroad opposed to the moves to arm Japan with nuclear weapons.

To be frank, a simultaneous inspection must be made with main stress on an overall inspection of the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea, as we are going to receive nuclear inspection by the IAEA.

All the nuclear weapons and nuclear bases must be removed in order to denuclearize the Korean peninsula. So, the question cannot be totally solved with the nuclear inspection of our republic.

But some circles of the United States and Japan are trying to attain another aim, setting afloat "doubts about nuclear inspection". This only reveals their shamelessness.

The sinister acts obstructing the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula must be checked.

Details of Talks With Japan Reported

SK1405050592 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] The seventh full-dress intergovernmental talks for the normalization of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan was held yesterday in Beijing. The talks were attended from our side by members of our government delegation led by Yi Sam-no, vice minister level ambassador of the Foreign Ministry, and from the Japanese side by members of the Japanese Government delegation led by Nakahira Noboru, vice foreign minister level ambassador.

According to a news briefing given by the head of our side's delegation Yi Sam-no, after the morning meeting ended, the heads of both delegations made initial addresses at the talks.

In his initial address, the head of our side's delegation recalled the fact that the six rounds of talks held in the past failed to make progress, wasting a lot of time because of questions that had nothing to do with the normalization of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan, which is the intrinsic purpose of the talks, and stressed that this is related to the fact that the Japanese side created artificial obstacles to the talks by presenting unwarranted preconditions, thereby failing to fulfill its responsibility as the party that should liquidate the past.

He then stressed that since the nuclear inspection issue, which the Japanese side unreasonably presented as a precondition in previous talks, has been completely resolved thanks to our active measures, now is the time for Japan to change its incorrect stand and attitude. He indicated that the normalization of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan is not a simple diplomatic and businesslike question as claimed by the Japanese side, but is a question of liquidating the past between the injurer and the sufferer and establishing relations of amity and friendship between them, that is, a question of liquidating the pent-up, unhappy history which has continued for nearly one century between the two countries and, on this basis, establishing relations of new amity and neighborliness.

He said that only when Japan sincerely reflects on the fact that it imposed all sorts of misfortune and sufferings upon our people in the past and takes the stand of making due compensation can the talks become progressive and fruitful talks.

Regarding the fact that in its initial address the Japanese side, while welcoming the forward-looking measures of

our republic for the solution of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula, expressed again apprehension and suspicion over our nonexistent nuclear development, our side asked the Japanese side: Under the present situation in which the question of our nuclear inspection has been correctly and smoothly resolved, what is the detailed content of your side's apprehensions and suspicion?

However, the Japanese side failed to give a clear answer to this.

Our side asked the Japanese side again: If the question of nuclear inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], which the Japanese side unwarrantedly presented as a precondition, is completely resolved, will your side present any other preconditions?

However, the Japanese side evaded answering this question. Therefore, we said that it is our understanding that, if the IAEA inspection is completed, the Japanese side will not present this question as a precondition again and stressed that the Japanese should just watch future developments.

The question of establishing diplomatic relations, the first item on the agenda, was discussed at the talks.

As regards this question, our side clarified the principled stand of our side on establishing diplomatic relations.

Our side stressed that first, if the diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan are to be established on a correct basis, Japan must correct its wrong view on and attitude toward the past. Our side indicated that the liquidation of the past, which is the key question in establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries, can be realized only through clear explanation of the past and a correct attitude toward it. Our side then stressed that the two countries of the DPRK and Japan should have a correct understanding of the past because they should liquidate the unhappy past and create a new history of amity and friendship.

Our side stressed that if either side buries the historical truth through a wrong sense of self-pride it will be difficult to pioneer a future of amity and friendship between the two countries. We then said that the failure of the talks to make progress on the question of establishing diplomatic relations is caused totally by the Japanese side's wrong stand and view of the past and that, unless Japan has a clear mind to separate itself from the past, the problems which arise on the road of normalizing diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan cannot be smoothly solved.

Second, our side stressed that to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries on a correct basis, the Japanese side should not argue for the applicability of the Japan-South Korea relations at the DPRK-Japan talks.

Our side said that Japan hid the unhappy past between the two countries behind a black curtain when it settled the relations between Japan and South Korea and that this left all the Korean people with an indelible grudge. Nevertheless, our side said, if Japan attempts to adjust today's DPRK-Japan relations to the (?framework) of Japan-South Korea relations, this will constitute a repeat of Japan's historical mistakes and it will not be able to escape the condemnation of all of the Korean people and the conscientious people of the world.

The talks continued in the afternoon. According to the briefing given by the head of our government's delegation after the afternoon talks, discussion of the question of establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries continued .

In the talks, the Japanese side repeated its previous unwarranted assertion that the treaty concluded with the old Korea was legal and valid at that time. Our side, in response, said: It was a simple historic fact that pursuant to the Ulsa Protectorate Treaty of 1905, Japan not only deprived old Korea of its rights of diplomacy, rights of police, and rights of finance, but also dissolved the Korean Army, and fabricated the Korean-Japanese Annexation Treaty by way of threat and blackmail by mobilizing the Japanese Army and surrounding the palace of the king of Korea. Such being the case, how can we say this treaty is a legal treaty?

Then, our side stressed that the treaty concluded with old Korea is in fact an illegal treaty concluded under pressure. Saying that the reason we insist on a definite assurance from Japan that it will not seek domination is to prevent Japan, which invaded and dominated Asia in the past, from repeating such a past, our side stressed that our proposal for not seeking domination is a fair and aboveboard proposal, which demands that both the DPRK and Japan have the duty of opposing domination.

However, while saying that it will not seek domination the Japanese side did not give a firm and definite guarantee.

Then, our side revealed the Japanese side's unwarranted and unreasonable assertion on the the question of jurisdiction. Our side asked why the Japanese side should bring up the question of jurisdiction of the republic at a time when the North and the South have agreed that North-South relations are not relations between countries but special relations which are temporarily formed in the process of advancing toward reunification. Then our side stressed that Japan must not do things which constitute obstacles to the peaceful reunification of Korea.

At the unofficial contacts between working personnel of both sides, which was held apart from the talks yesterday, the Japanese side again brought forward the question of an unidentified Japanese woman, trying to lay a deliberate obstacle to the talks.

Revealing that the Japanese side is definitely attempting to damage the honor of our republic and to delay the talks with this question, our side stressed that, now that the Korean Airlines [KAL] incident [The 1987 bombing of a KAL airliner over the Andaman Sea off the coast of

Burma] has been recognized in the international community as a self-made drama of the South Korean authorities, the Japanese woman who was allegedly linked to the main culprit of the incident is also false and fabricated. Then, our side said that since a former prime minister of South Korea revealed to the world in his declaration of conscience that the KAL incident was a fraudulent international drama and that Japan, too, was involved, the Japanese side should explain why and how Japan was involved in this incident. However, the Japanese side was not able to answer this.

Our side warned that if the Japanese side tries to utilize the unidentified Japanese woman as a bargaining tool in the DPRK-Japan talks, this will seriously incite our people's sentiment toward Japan and, thus, may gravely affect the relations between the two countries. The talks will continue.

Kim Il-song Proposal for Koryo Confederacy Lauded

SK1405052392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0447 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 14 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song set it as the great principle defining the way of national reunification suited to the specific conditions of our country to achieve reunification by means of a confederacy based on one nation, one state, two systems and two governments and put forward the proposal for founding the democratic confederal republic of Koryo (DCRK) long ago as the way to reunify the country through confederation, says NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today. The article reads in part:

The proposal for founding the DCRK is to reunify the country by founding a confederal state through the establishment of a unified national government on condition that the North and the South recognize and tolerate each other's ideas and social systems, a government in which the two sides are represented on an equal footing and under which they exercise regional autonomy respectively with equal rights and duties.

This is a most fair and aboveboard proposal to realize the national desire for reunification with neither side of the North and the South infringing upon the other's interests.

The DCRK founding proposal is a just and reasonable grand programme of reunification also in view of international relations.

This proposal stipulates that the unified confederal state should be a neutral state not joining any political and military alliance or bloc.

It is very favorable to maintaining and consolidating peace in Asia and, furthermore, peace in the world that Korea fraught with the great danger of recurrence of war, divided into the North and the South, is reunified into one and follows an independent and peaceloving policy. The unified confederal state will pose no threat to anyone.

The whole nation must be firmly united and resolutely smash the home and foreign separatists' moves for perpetuating national division in order to accomplish the cause of national reunification by founding the democratic confederal republic of Koryo.

South Korea

Spokesman Alleges North Produced Plutonium

SK1405024492 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0200 GMT 14 May 92

[YONHAP report from Tokyo]

[Text] Yi Tong-pok, ROK spokesman for the South-North premiers talks, said that North Korea has completed the construction of a nuclear fuel reprocessing facilitiy which can separate and extract plutonium, a material used in nuclear bombs, and that it is ready for operation at any time.

In an interview with Japan's YOMIURI SHIMBUN on 13 May, spokesman Yi said it appears that North Korea has developed a nuclear bomb detonator and revealed that this indicates that there is a high possibility that North Korea could have produced some amount of plutonium.

Minister Calls DPRK 'Antistate Organization'

SK1405060792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0551 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 14 (YONHAP)—Despite increasing inter-Korean contacts, North Korea was still an anti-state organization in the eyes of the South Korean Government, Justice Minister Kim Ki-chun reminded the cabinet Thursday.

"North Korea, as the law says, is an anti-state organization and is a dialogue partner for reunification," Kim said. He was reporting to the cabinet on the appearance of the North Korean flag on the campuses.

"Displaying the North Korean flag is a blatant violation of the National Security Law. The government will reaffirm its commitment to the law," Kim said.

He asked the cabinet for the support of school authorities and college professors to settle the problem caused by students flying the North Korean flag.

Home Minister Yi Tong-ho seconded Kim's remarks, saying the incidents constituted "not only an anti-state, anti-social crime, but insulted public sentiment."

"The government will sternly deal with acts of putting up the North Korean flag," Yi said.

Education Minister Cho Wan-kyu said he felt sorry for the cabinet and for the people as a whole because the "shocking and unfortunate" incident had occurred as an academic atmosphere was returning to the nation's campuses.

Meanwhile, the police put 17 student activists suspected of playing a leading role in sporting the flag on a nationwide wanted list on charges of breaking the National Security Law.

Paper Examines North's Motives Concerning MIA's

SK1405015892 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 14 May 92 p 6

[Editorial: "MIAs of Korean War"]

[Text] Thirty-nine years have passed since the armistice was signed on the Korean Peninsula. Yet, many problems remain unsolved in the vestiges of the Cold War that had existed along the truce line. One of them is the retrieval of the remains of the uncovered war dead of the 1950-53 Korean War. Such being the case, the U.N. Command has many times called on North Korea to cooperate in retrieving the war dead. Pyongyang's response had been rather half-hearted, returning only the remains of 16 in 1990.

Then, last week, North Korea announced that it would repatriate the remains of 30 U.N. servicemen listed as MIAs on two separate occasions, the first half of which was returned through Panmunjom yesterday. Unlike previous returns of MIA remains when it insisted that a U.S. congressional delegation receive them, Pyongyang this time acted through the Military Armistice Commission.

But the remains repatriated or to be repatriated are only a fraction of the remains of roughly 2,700 U.S. servicemen believed buried somewhere in North Korea. Besides, it must be noted that there were not only Americans left in the North, but thousands of South Koreans and soldiers of other allied countries.

This fact leads one to suspect the true intentions of the Pyongyang regime. No doubt, North Korea is trying to use the issue as a way of buttering up Washington. Certainly, the Pyongyang regime has in mind the deals Vietnam had with Washington in negotiating the return of U.S. MIAs.

North Korea is legally required to release the remains under the terms of the Korean armistice. And even without the legal obligation, it is bound to do so from a humanitarian point of view. To prove its humanitarian motive, any and all political gambits should be put aside.

Undoubtedly, North Koreans are aware that the international environment is becoming unfavorable to their policy of isolation and militancy. Indeed, their past tactics of sabotage and intransigency have failed, instead inviting world condemnation. Pyongyang, as in the past, could have ulterior aims behind its gesture toward Washington.

Therefore, the U.S. response toward the latest North Korean maneuver should be based on a realistic analysis of the true intent of North Korea. Little that is positive has yet come out of North Korea's elusive and sugar-coated pacific gesture vis-a-vis the United States and the rest of the outside world. It remains for Pyongyang to prove its sincerity in its professed readiness to open its nuclear facilities to international and inter-Korean inspections.

There still remain many U.S. and South Korean servicemen whose fate in the Korean War has not been accounted for. Pyongyang should show flexibility and greater openness in its posture toward the MIA issue if it is really acting from a humanitarian motive. It must now come out in good faith and respond to our call for the immediate return of all MIA remains.

Paper Details 'Crisis' in Relations With Japan

SK1305121592 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 12 May 92 p 1

[Report by Tokyo correspondent Song Hui-yong]

[Text] Relations between the ROK and Japan are facing a crisis. Diplomatic ties, patent issue relations, and even national feelings toward each other are deteriorating badly.

Some time ago, Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok was supposed to hold unofficial foreign ministerial talks in Tokyo on his way home from a visit to Beijing. The visit, however, was canceled suddenly when a group of rightists stormed the ROK consulate in Yokohama. Talks between the presidents of the two countries' central banks this month have been canceled, and most working talks on fisheries and trade determine only differences in views, ending without success.

The diplomats' attitudes are significant. ROK diplomats in charge of Japanese affairs are openly displeased about Japan's Shinkansen Railway's attempt to win the contract for the Seoul-Pusan high-speed railway project. On the other hand, Japan's working officials in charge of ROK affairs strongly oppose the ROK Government proposal to Japanese financial circles to form a $150 million industrial technological cooperation fund.

When the ROK Finance Ministry tried to postpone establishment of a Japanese bond bank's Seoul branch, the Japanese Finance Ministry hinted at a "retaliatory measure" to prohibit Citizens National Bank from establishing a Tokyo branch. No serious open diplomatic conflict has occurred yet, but frictions and confrontations are continuing to add to the worsening public sentiment.

ROK Embassy diplomats in Japan often describe relations between the two countries as "the worst since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1965" or "the worst in a decade." Since the normalization of ROK-Japan relations in 1965, there have been several serious conflicts between the two countries: the Kim Tae- chung abduction case, the incident in which former First Lady Yuk Yong-su was shot to death, and the commotions created by Japanese distortion of history textbooks.

In those days, the nature of the friction was clear. Thanks to the foreign policy of the United States, which did not

want ROK-Japan relations to deteriorate, and pro-ROK and pro-Japanese individuals in Japan and the ROK, the frictions were soon dissolved.

The source of friction, however, between the two countries for three to four years since the Seoul Olympic Games is not as clear as in the past. A series of incidents took place—the comfort women issue, the burning in effigy of the Japanese emperor, the Japanese rightist group's storming the ROK consulate in Yokohama—but the nature of the friction is not established clearly and simply, and the friction is likely to be prolonged with increasing complexity.

For example, when the ROK established diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, Japan's imaginary enemy, Japan immediately began negotiations with North Korea to establish diplomatic ties. Political and diplomatic relations between the ROK and Japan became less active after the collapse of cold war structures and tensions have increased. Since the Gulf war, the United States and Japan have watched each other closely. As a result, Japan now equates the ROK with the United States.

Japanese politicians, scholars, and journalists strongly believe the ROK poses an "obstacle" to Japan's quest for power, regularly criticizing the ROK for bringing up the past. When President No visited Japan three years ago, for example, the ROK asked Japan to apologize for crimes against Korea. Similarly, when Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa visited the ROK this year, the ROK raised the issue of the Japanese Army's use of Korean comfort women.

Japanese politicians, scholars, and journalists insist the only problem the ROK has with Japan is its goal to become a great power. They say the ROK cornered Japan when it signed a fisheries agreement with Russia when Japan was negotiating with Russia for the return of the Kurils (Northern Territories).

Diplomatic conflicts between the ROK and Japan as well as Japan's fear of the ROK's economic growth have also strained relations. Japan's reluctance to transfer technology to the ROK reveals the wariness Japan has harbored since the ROK's successful staging of the Seoul Olympics. Japanese companies even have asked ROK semiconductor companies to pay billions of yen in royalties.

Because of labor disputes and skyrocketing prices, some people say the ROK has lost its value as an investment outlet. As a result, Japan is less inclined to promote economic cooperation with the ROK, becoming "indifferent toward the Korean peninsula" or ignoring it.

Meanwhile, the ROK worries about what Japan's great-power status may produce. Wary of Japan's drive for political and military power, the ROK believes Japan strongly opposes reunification of the Korean peninsula.

Controversies over anti-Japanese sentiments have surfaced in the ROK since late last year. Anti-ROK intellectuals have started to speak out, Japanese critics have angered the public by describing the ROK as a "heterogeneous country in Asia," and an anti-Japanese television drama has become popular in the ROK.

Manufacturers Fighting Cheap Chinese Exports

SK1405030392 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 14 May 92 p 8

[By staff reporter Chae Hui-muk]

[Text] Domestic manufacturers are being pushed out of their markets at home and abroad by cheaper Chinese products.

A large number of manufacturing firms have been suffering from excessive inventories of goods as a result of the massive influx of Chinese goods into the domestic market.

The Koreans are having to reduce production and several firms in each sector have suspended their business.

China surpassed Korea in total exports last year and its market share in major export markets such as the United States, Japan, and Great Britain now exceeds Korea.

Chinese products have also been flooding the domestic market, dealing a severe blow to domestic makers producing similar goods.

During the first three months of this year, Korea imported $611 million from China, an impressive 53.7 percent increase from a year earlier.

The Chinese-made goods cover a wide range, including electronics and electric products, textiles, machinery, footwear and toys.

In the textile sector, Chinese cotton fabrics 20-30 percent cheaper than Korean products are being imported in large numbers, causing the bankruptcy of medium-sized silk fabric makers.

Several fabric makers are considering filing complaints with authorities against dumping margin sales of the Chinese goods.

A textile expert said that the bankruptcy of Chonghwa Enterprise Corp. and court management of Youngnam Textile Co. and Keumha Textile Co. are closely related with the dumping margin sales of Chinese products.

Smaller-sized garment makers have been displaced from their market in Korea by cheaper Chinese garments.

E Land and other sound medium-sized garment makers are manufacturing their products in China at lower labor costs and importing to the domestic market to overcome the high labor costs here.

Audio systems and optical device makers are also afraid of the growing imports of Chinese products, including speakers.

In particular, China has outpowered Korea in both quality and prices in the gauge instrument industry.

Although the volume is small, it is conspicuous in the growth of imports for semiconductors, elevators, electronics parts and motors.

In the valve industry, some 20 makers have already closed their factories.

Some 80 glass lens makers have suspended or closed their factories this year unable to cope with the 50 percent market share enjoyed by the Chinese.

In the footwear industry, Chinese goods' imports soared 370 percent to $3,180,000 during the first three months of this year from a year earlier, damaging domestic manufacturers.

Umbrella producers, who began facing hardships from cheap Chinese products last year, have been operating their equipment at below 60 percent.

Fire-resistant bricks from China occupy more than 45 percent of the domestic market, bringing four Korean producers down.

Hard hit by Chinese products last year, several tooth pick and wooden chopstick producers have suspended or shut off their plants this year.

An official of the Korea Foreign Trade Association [KFTA] said that a considerable number of smaller firms have lost their production base due to the cheaper Chinese products.

He also believes that Chinese manufacturers will soon overtake the Korean firms in high tech products such as electric and electronics goods.

Korean goods are waging an uphill battle with Chinese products in the international markets.

The KFTA official said that China exported $71,910 million worth of goods last year, $12 million more than Korean exports.

This year, the gap is expected to widen to $1.7-$5.3 billion, he predicted.

In fact, China trailed Korea in exports to the United States, Japan, Britain and other European countries last year.

In particular, Korea handed over the third position in textile exports to China after 10-years in the position.

No Tae-u's Neutrality in DLP Contest Questioned

SK1405070692 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 14 May 92 p 2

[By staff reporter Pak Mu-chong]

[Text] The controversial presidential nomination race in the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] developed into a serious situation yesterday with apparent underdog Yi Chong-chan focusing an attack directly on President No Tae-u.

With only six days away to the final showdown in the national convention next Tuesday, Yi openly criticized No, who also heads the DLP, doubting the President has remained neutral as he has pledged on numerous occasions.

In a press conference, Yi claimed that "various signs prove that President No is not maintaining a neutral position."

Yi, who has resorted to "outside-the-party" struggles to fight his mighty rival Kim Yong-sam, so far, showed willingness Tuesday to give up the campaign method, apparently yielding to pressures from inside and outside the party.

However, the former veteran floor leader of the now-defunct ruling Democratic Justice Party changed his mind overnight, presumably stimulated by lawmaker-elect Kim Pok-tong's joining Kim Yong-sam's camp.

Kim was a classmate of No at the Korean Military Academy (class of 1955) and is an elder brother of No's wife Kim Ok-suk.

Yi's aides also said that the latest moves of party secretary general Yi Chun-ku, No's proxy missioned to manage the nomination contest in a fair and just manner, are not treading the "neutral" line.

They recalled that secretary general Yi warned Monday against Yi's rallies outside the party, condemning that they impede party unity. They also believe that the special meeting secretary general Yi called Tuesday to cool overheated nomination competition was designed to hold their campaign in check.

Yi, who is trailing Kim by a large margin in terms of the number of supporters among local chapter heads, had thus far maintained the stance that No's real intention was to stay neutral to ensure free competition.

Yi had thought that the President's will was distorted by a number of his aides, including Son Chu-hwan, who was recently dismissed as senior presidential secretary for political affairs, to make it appear as if No were supporting Kim.

Last week, No sacked Son, calling him to account for his controversial remarks and behavior tilting toward Kim, at the request of Yi.

Outwardly, the President's stern action was immediately understood as his strong will to ensure fair competition.

Yet, Yi's camp, although its demand was partially accepted, suspected that the resolute measure of President No heralds a stronger oppression of Yi citing the warning against Yi's "unauthorized" out-of-party rallies.

In fact, Yi's aides claimed that pressure on Yi has been intensified since Son was removed.

The hawkish attitude of Yi does not rule out the possibility that Yi may make a "grave decision," if the current unfair climate still goes on, according to his aides.

In the press meet, Yi did not give a clear answer to the question what he would do if the result of the competition does not favor him, reminiscent of Kim's earlier equivocal answer to the same question.

Kim had said, "I never imagine defeat," asked if he would accept the outcome of the contest. Yi said without giving a clear answer, "I expect my fellow comrades and delegates will make a reasonable decision for revolution by vote."

Kim, executive chairman of the party, had threatened to leave the party, if the "Minjong" faction put up co-chairman Pak Tae-chun as a candidate against him. Pak was "forced" to withdraw eventually, and Yi was chosen to fight Kim.

Now, it seems to be the turn for Yi to make a similar threat. Some core members of the ruling camp and some political observers do not rule out the possibility that Yi may sever his links with the party to run in the presidential election in case he loses to Kim in the Tuesday convention.

Imha Multipurpose Dam Completed

SK1405020392 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 14 May 92 p 8

[Text] A new multipurpose dam was completed yesterday in Imhamyon, Andong County, Kyongsangpuk-to after seven and a half years of construction work.

The Korea Water Resources Corp. (KWRC) started work on the Imha Dam located at Banbyon Stream, a branch of Nakdong River, 18 km east of Andong City, in December 1984.

A ceremony was held on site to dedicate the nation's 9th multipurpose dam with the attendance of Minister of Construction So Yong-taek, Yi Tai-kyo, the KWRC president and hundreds of local residents.

As much as 321.7 billion won was spent on the construction of the main dam, 73 meters high and 515 meters wide along with a regulation dam, located 5 km downstream, an official at the state-run corporation said.

The rockfill dam has a water storage capacity of 595 million tons to supply about 497 million tons of water a year to inland areas in the province, including Taegu.

A hydroelectric power plant was also built to generate 96.7 million kwh of electricity per year with the effect of saving 130,000 barrels of imported oil worth 2 billion won.

The dam will have a flood control capacity of 80 million tons of water, said the KWRC official, who added that the chronic flood damage in the middle and lower reaches of Nakdong River will be substantially reduced.

The construction of the dam flooded 26.1 sq. km of land, and 9,529 residents were relocated.

Nuclear Fuel Factory Construction Set for 1993

SK1305125592 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 13 May 92 p 13

[YONHAP report from Taejon]

[Text] The Korea Nuclear Fuel Co., Ltd. at the Taedok Research Complex purchased in March about 297,000 square meters of land around Kasan-ri, Uidang-myon, in Kongju County, South Chungchong Province, as a construction site for the No. 2 nuclear fuel factory. The factory will be the country's largest nuclear fuel plant.

The company, which produced the final work schedule at a 9 May directors' board meeting, plans to complete the factory by the end of 1996 at a cost of 111,200 million won. Construction will start next year, if possible, after the company conducts an environmental feasibility survey.

Cambodia

Ranariddh Charges on SRV Troops Denied

BK1405071692 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 14 May 92

[Statement by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 13 May—read by announcer]

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Cambodia would like to categorically reject the mendacious declaration made by Prince Ranariddh in Nusa Dua and quoted by AFP on 12 May, in which he said: I would like to stress that there are still 40,000 regular Vietnamese troops in Cambodia and I would like to further specify that there are many illegal Vietnamese civilians there. People have said that there are 1 million Vietnamese in Cambodia, but I personally believe the number is much higher. This presence will weigh on the elections if an electoral law under discussion is not changed to keep non-Cambodians away from the elections.

It should be noted that like those made in the past by many other persons, this declaration is contrary to the statement of [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia Deputy Chief] Berhooz Sadry, who affirmed to AFP on 11 May 1992: No, nothing has been found—stressing that the UN peacekeepers have for the past six months investigated many reports of a Vietnamese military presence.

The only Vietnamese troops are those in the imaginations of people seeking to sabotage the Paris accords. One must also note that the Vietnamese residents in Cambodia, around 100,000, are far less numerous now than in the 1960's when there were about 500,000 of them.

We believe this mendacious declaration contributes to neither the spirit of national reconciliation nor a sense of respect for and implementation of the Paris peace accords signed on 23 October 1991. Moreover, as the representative of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] at an international conference, Prince Ranariddh should have avoided making statements that are polemical, mendacious, and unethical and which do not reflect the consensus of the SNC.

Phnom Penh, 13 May 1992

Sihanouk Thanks People for Red Cross Support

BK1305122192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 13 May 92

["Message of thanks from His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state, chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council, and chairman of the Allied Cambodian Red Cross Committee;" dated 11 May—read by announcer]

[Text] As chairman of the Allied Cambodian Red Cross Committee, I would like to thank Venerable Tep Vong, head of the Makanikay Buddhist Sect; the State of Cambodia's Government; the committee organizing the 8 May International Red Cross Day; the Allied Cambodian Red Cross; various diplomats accredited to Cambodia; the International Red Cross Committee; and all generous persons in and outside the country, for their material, physical, intellectual, and moral contribution and assistance in making the 8 May international Red Cross Day a success beyond expectation.

The assistance of Venerable Tep Vong and that of all generous persons are the most valuable contributions to alleviate and share our people's suffering and hardship in order to move forward to build peace, society, and the nation and to achieve peace in Cambodia.

I would like to wish the venerable head monk and the clergy, compatriots, and children throughout the country the five Buddhist blessings.

[Dated] 11 May 1992

[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk

Sihanouk Receives New Zealand Credentials 12 May

BK1405021292 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Philip Gibson, New Zealand envoy, presented his credentials to His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], at Khemarin Palace on the morning of 12 May. HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk was pleased to welcome the New Zealand envoy's presence in Cambodia, saying this constitutes resumption of the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and represents New Zealand's valuable contribution to the Cambodian peace process.

H.E. Philip Gibson, for his part, told the prince that he would strive to do his best to expand and strengthen the relations between the two countries.

Ranariddh To Pursue Sihanouk's Political Line

BK1405040892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 2300 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] Prince Norodom Ranariddh, chairman of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC] Party, said: Cambodia's peace and security totally depend on the consensus of the Cambodian family. Without this, Cambodia will continue to meet with disaster for certain. The prince stated this at a meeting with some 100 students, intellectuals, and administrators at the FUNCINPEC office in Phnom Penh on 9 May before leading a delegation of the Supreme National Council [SNC] to a ministerial meeting of the Nonaligned Movement in Bandung, Indonesia.

The prince said he was extremely pleased to meet face-to-face with the audience as he can see that Cambodians are still aware of and concerned with the country's affairs. He added that although the revered samdech euv [Sihanouk's popular appellation]—the father and creator of the FUNCINPEC—has become the head of state and neutral SNC chairman, the FUNCINPEC, a creation of the samdech, will at all times continue to pursue his perfect political line, especially following him in his new crusade as the father of the nation and father of national reunification, independence, peace, and democracy in Cambodia.

Mixed Military Working Group Meets 9 May

BK1305095592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] On the morning of 9 May the second-level Mixed Military Working Group [MMWG] opened its 17th meeting in the presence of Lieutenant General John Sanderson, military commander of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC]. The Armed Forces of the Cambodian factions were represented by Lt. Gen. Phuong Siphan, deputy chief of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF] General Staff, and his colleagues; General Pan Thai, chief of the General Staff of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] Armed Forces, and his colleagues; Major General Tuan Chay, chief of the General Staff of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Armed Forces, and his colleagues. The Khmer Rouge faction was represented by Brigadier General Nuon Bunno and Mr. Tep Khunnal, a special adviser.

According to a CPAF officer in the MMWG, the discussions concentrated on many important issues, such as the decision to begin the second phase of the cease-fire as of 13 June 1992. After the meeting, the UNTAC commander announced this matter to both local and foreign journalists. The meeting also decided on the various tasks the Armed Forces of all four factions must immediately carry out in preparation for the beginning of the cease-fire's second phase, including especially the cantonment of forces for their 70 percent demobilization. It was determined that on 20 May the lists of soldiers and arms of each Cambodian faction should be submitted in its respective troop cantonment areas to UNTAC.

On the inspection and enforcement of the cease-fire in preparation for the second phase, the discussions focused mainly on the military and security situation which has become increasingly serious, especially in Kompong Thom where the situation has obviously been affected by the Khmer Rouge's provocation of the problems or their refusal to settle them.

The same source added that all the important issues raised by Lt. Gen. John Sanderson were invariably rejected by Khmer Rouge representatives, who tried to shirk all responsibility by excusing their counterattacks to recapture areas seized by the CPAF in January 1992. On that occasion, Lt. Gen. John Sanderson put forward four measures to solve the Kompong Thom situation. As a matter of fact, he proposed that all four Cambodian factions strictly implement the cease-fire, support UNTAC inspection teams in reopening roads in contested zones, join hands in demining the Route 12 stretch to allow free access to the Cambodian people in general, and pull all their forces to the troop cantonment areas and that, if necessary, UNTAC would send additional forces to Kompong Thom Province. The officer stressed that all four measures were fully supported by the three Cambodian factions, namely the CPAF, the KPNLF Armed Forces, and the FUNCINPEC Armed Forces. Only the Khmer Rouge faction was undecided.

Following a heated discussion between Lt. Gen. John Sanderson and the Khmer Rouge faction representative, another Khmer Rouge representative, Mr. Tep Khunnal, said his faction has agreed in principle. However, he feels the settlement of the Kompong Thom problem should be conducted simultaneously with the deployment of UNTAC forces to control the eastern border.

The meeting proceeded in a spirit of understanding and animated consultation.

Efforts To Maintain Stability Urged

BK1305105992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 11 May 92

[Undated PRACHEACHON editorial: "Unite and Maintain Stability and Social Safety To Achieve the Holding of the Planned General Election"]

[Text] In the new historic phase, namely the implementation of the Paris peace agreement, security and social order are the most important issues in society. Anarchy, the lack of security and social order will not only result in the loss of social stability but also hinder the implementation of the Paris agreement, which is supposed to end the blood-letting war and bring peace, national reconciliation, and progress to our beloved motherland.

From the beginning, as host, along with creating conditions and sincerely cooperating with all parties involved to correctly implement the agreement, the State of Cambodia—which is the on-the-spot administration—has made efforts and tried to maintain security and social order. This is also for international operations and for the other side which has come at the same time to be stationed inside the country. To this day, despite the many complex problems that have emerged, our State of Cambodia has managed to maintain a strategic advantage in nearly the entire country. This has been done by preserving the structures and the day-to-day political and military life, and also in security, and social and economic order. These are the key factors for ensuring normality in implementation of the agreement toward the scheduled general elections. Problems have been caused by a number of parties using the agreement to

violate the agreement and instigating confusion and anarchy. They found ways and means to cause problems amidst our ranks and attempted to use demonstrations to carry out espionage and terrorist activities, and political murders to destabilize society and reduce the influence of our party and government. These have been compounded by other problems.

However, as mentioned above, the situation in Cambodia has improved in totality. It is true we still face many more obstacles on the road to final genuine peace. These problems have to be solved and overcome, and the security issue is the hottest one. Our biggest goal is to sucessfully implement the peace agreement, meaning that the general elections should be held in safety. This necessitates stability and social order. Otherwise, it could turn into things that are contrary to the goal and the spirit of the peace agreement. War will then continue and this will be disastrous for our people and motherland.

Therefore, the request is that from now to the general elections, we should unite under the leadership of the Cambodian People's Party and the State of Cambodia's Government. We should continue to be patient and strive to overcome difficulties, and cooperate in maintaining security and social order. Only this will ensure that the situation continues to evolve smoothly.

In the immediate future, the regional police and police posts should be strengthened to help the state authority become more efficient in its administrative tasks. At the same time, the police are making efforts to cooperate with UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] forces, and to conform with the duties in the new situation, namely people's movements that help maintain political security and social order. There should be intensified measures to control weapons. The situation in various sectors should be put under control. Everywhere, particularly in cities and gathering places, the police should be constantly on duty to preempt problems.

Along with this, we should continue to prevent armed robbery and terrorist activities. Investigation should be carried out and offenders arrested and punished in public.

Based on the spirit of lofty responsibility as host and as the in situ present administration, we will resolutely unite with the people to consolidate stability, security, and social order to create conditions for the successfull implementation of the peace agreement.

UN Says Logging at Unsustainable Pace

BK1305063492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0338 GMT 13 May 92

[By Andrew Sherry]

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 13 (AFP)—Uncontrolled logging is stripping Cambodia of its forests and its future, warn UN officials pressing for an environmental cease-fire.

The sound of chainsaws has grown louder since October's peace treaty, as the armed factions race to exploit their respective fiefdoms before next year's elections to choose a national government.

A study commissioned for the UN Development Program (UNDP) says regional demand for timber—particularly from Thailand, Vietnam and Japan—could push Cambodia's exports to 1.2 million cubic meters this year, or nearly five times the estimated sustainable level.

Firewood harvesting and slash-and-burn agriculture have left wide areas of Cambodia as "bald as a monk's head," in the words of a Kampot Province resident encountered by the study's authors.

"Forest destruction threatens the productivity of agriculture and fisheries as well, in short, the very sustainability of economic development in Cambodia," the study said.

It said sluice mining of gemstones in western Cambodia was also hurting fishing by sending silt down into the already shallow great lake, the Tonle Sap.

The UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) sounded an alarm bell over the environmental destruction at a meeting last week of the Supreme National Council (SNC), which groups the four Cambodian factions.

UNTAC deputy chief Behrooz Sadry later told AFP that though UNTAC had no mandate to protect the environment, it would try to reign in abuses through its role overseeing revenue-raising activities of the various factions.

This would mean UNTAC checkpoints on the Thai and Vietnamese borders, now being set up to ensure no foreign troops or weapons are entering Cambodia, would also be used to count truckloads of timber going out.

"We're very concerned about environmental destruction, not only for environmental reasons but also for financial reasons," he said.

"When a new government comes to power it will have no means to support itself," he said.

UNTAC's bid to control natural resource use is likely to face stiff opposition from the Khmer Rouge—who control the gem-mining center Pailin and a wide swath of forest along the western border—as well as from their powerful Thai business partners.

The study estimates the Khmer Rouge will export 200,000 cubic meters of timber to Thailand this year, while the other two resistance factions between them export nearly 180,000 more.

The Phnom Penh Government had by April signed contracts with companies from France, Thailand and Indonesia to export 145,000 cubic metres in 1992 with contracts pending with Singapore, Taiwan and Japanese firms for an additional 175,000.

"Exports by provincial-level authorities and illegal traders are thought to at least equal trade coordinated by central authorities," the study said.

"A 20-kilometer (12-mile) zone along the entire border with Laos is reportedly being logged illegally to ship rosewood and other high-value tropical hardwoods to Thailand," the study said.

"On the Vietnamese border, renegade armed groups were reportedly exporting 2,500-3,000 cubic meters of logs per day into Vietnam in January 1992."

The UNDP study linked deforestation to August 1991 flash floods that caused some 150 million dollars in damage, not counting farmland lost to erosion.

Fishing—the other staple of the Cambodian economy alongside rice farming—has also suffered from the logging of mangrove forests that serve as fish breeding grounds when the Tonle Sap overflows its banks each year.

UNDP program officer Robert Piper said the Cambodian factions needed to observe "an environmental cease-fire" until they agreed on a policy to manage natural resources.

The United Nations has an ally in SNC chairman Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who has emerged as a strong advocate of environmental protection.

"Afforestation is vital for the survival of the Cambodian people," said the prince, who is reportedly considering attending next month's Earth Summit in Brazil.

The study commissioned by UNDP recommends that an environmental advisory team be set up to screen out all foreign investment and aid projects that could harm the environment.

At the same time, a strategy of sustainable economic development should be aggressively promoted with backing from international institutions, it says.

At least 40 percent of Cambodia, or 7.2 million hectares (17.8 million acres) is still covered by forest despite logging, according to figures cited in the UNDP study.

Ironically, some areas were so heavily mined during two decades of war that they should be spared the axe for years to come.

"One of the saving graces of the Cambodian forests is the mines," said Piper.

Australian, New Zealand Signals Experts Arrive

BK1305052692 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0400 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK May 13—Australia began boosting its UN contingent in Cambodia to full strength Tuesday [12 May] with the arrival of 101 signalling experts and a 30-man logistics unit, a UN military spokesman was quoted by AFP as saying.

An additional 140 personnel were to arrive Wednesday to complete the main force of a 526-man signal unit, which will provide communications for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Captain Robert Barnes of Australia said.

The signal unit includes 40 New Zealanders, 36 [of] whom were among the personnel who flew in Tuesday from Bangkok aboard a chartered civilian aircraft and a UN C-160 transport plane, he said.

Australian peacekeepers were the first to arrive in Cambodia in November, when 40 signallers flew in to provide communications for the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia, UNTAC's predecessor.

The number was boosted to 185 in mid-April when an advance party for the UNTAC "force communications unit" arrived.

The unit—which includes Royal Australian Air Force and Navy personnel along with mostly Army signallers—will link not only UNTAC command posts but also the headquarters of the four rival Cambodian factions, which it has already equipped with machines.

Their role is seen as vital in defusing disputes between factions and facilitating the demobilization of their Armies, due to begin June 13 in line with a peace accord signed in Paris in October.

A ship carrying their equipment is to arrive late this month follow the remaining members of the unit in June, Barnes said. [sentence as received]

The 30-man logistics unit, sent by Australia following a "last-minute request" by the United Nations, will manage the flow of troops and supplies into Cambodia, he said.

Around 4,000 UN peacekeepers have arrived in Cambodia, out of a projected peak force of 20,000.

Indonesia

E. Timor Official Demands Resident as Governor

BK1305110792 Hong Kong AFP in English 1038 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] Jakarta, May 13 (AFP)—The speaker of East Timor's legislature has said that the former Portuguese colony would reject any attempt by Jakarta to impose a new governor from outside the province, a newspaper said Wednesday.

"In principle, we reject any non-East Timorese candidate for governor, the JAWA POS daily quoted East Timor's House Speaker Guilherme dos Santos as saying in the provincial capital of Dili.

"We have our own candidates... Give us a chance to play politics. Do not violate the rules of the game. Do not spoil the process of candidacy," dos Santos said of the

governor, chosen by the president from three candidates selected by the provincial parliament.

Home Affairs Minister Rudini last month said that East Timor should accept a governor who was not a native of the region, a Portuguese colony for some 400 years before Jakarta declared it the 27th province of Indonesia in 1976, a year after it invaded.

The United Nations has not recognised the annexation of East Timor and regards Portugal as the legitimate administrator.

The present governor, Mario Viegas Carrascalao, is scheduled to end his second five-year term in office in September and is barred by law from a third term.

In March dos Santos called on Jakarta not to dictate its choice for the governorship. "Never tell us who should be named the next governor, otherwise it will hurt East Timor," he said.

Carrascalao said last month that there were 15 possible candidates for the governorship, 13 of them native East Timorese.

Among the more prominent names circulating as a possible candidate is that of Clementino dos Reis Amaral, a ruling party legislator who is a member of the official team probing the massacre by the Indonesian military in Dili last November.

East Timor-born ruling party legislator Salvador Januario Ximenes Soares said early last month that Brigadier General Rudolf Samuel Warouw, a former military commander of East Timor removed from his post following the Dili massacre, was also among the candidates.

Indonesian President Suharto in December removed Warouw and his direct superior, Bali-based Major General Sintong Panjaitan, from their posts, saying they were responsible as military leaders for the massacre, in which scores of East Timorese died.

Construction of Naval Station, Airbase To Start

BK1305131092 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0737 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] Ambon, May 13 (OANA/ANTARA)—The Indonesian Navy expects to start constructing a naval station in Tanjung Seratu and a naval airbase in Afenfen in the country's Eastern Aru island of Tragan in the middle of this year, a Navy official said here on Tuesday.

Rear Admiral Wahyono, the Navy's assistant chief of staff assistant for budget planning, said that the stations were needed to deter possible security threats caused by foreign fishing boats operating in the region.

They are also needed to promote development in the region in line with government policy, he added.

He said waters of Aru needed special management as they are vast and their richness had attracted thousands of foreign ships operating illegally there, adding it was time now for the government and security institutions to give special attention to the region.

A total of 342 fleets were recorded operating in the waters in 1991 catching shrimps and fish under domestic and foreign capital investment schemes in addition to 933 foreign-flagged ships operating in the Exclusive Economic Zone, he said.

Around 10,000 people living on the 2,100 square-mile island of Tragan still practice the traditional system of barter trade.

A local community leader, Junai, said that the presence of the stations could help promote development on the island. The head of the Aru sub-district, Notanubun, said he hoped the people of the region would benefit from the presence of the stations.

Laos

SRV Party Economic Delegation Holds Meetings

Calls on Prime Minister

BK1305022892 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] Yesterday afternoon an economic delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee led by Nguyen Ha Phan, secretary of the CPV Central Committee and head of the Economic Board of the party Central Committee, which is currently on a visit to Laos, paid a courtesy call on Khamtai Siphandon, Political Bureau member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], at the government guest hall in Vientiane. On this occasion the prime minister welcomed the working visit of the SRV delegation to the LPDR, a visit which he said has contributed to further promoting, expanding, and strengthening the special friendship between the two parties and two states, as well as between the two peoples of Laos and Vietnam.

The meeting and talk between the guest and host proceeded in an atmosphere of mutual understanding. The two sides informed each other of the situation for economic development work in their respective countries in the new stage.

On the same afternoon, the economic delegation of the CPV Central Committee also held a working meeting with Kham-ouan Boupha, deputy minister of agriculture and forestry, and a delegation led by him.

Meets Kaysone Phomvihan

BK1405020092 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Yesterday evening Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee, received a courtesy call from a delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee led by Nguyen Ha Phan, secretary of the CPV Central Committee and head of the Economic Board of the party Central Committee, which is on a visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR].

During the meeting and talks between the guest and host, which proceeded in an atmosphere of warmth, intimacy, and mutual understanding, President Kaysone expressed his appreciation for the visit to Laos by the Vietnamese delegation. He said the visit will further contribute significantly to the incessant strengthening and expanding of the solidarity, friendship, and comprehensive cooperation between the parties, governments, and peoples of the two countries—Laos and Vietnam.

On this occasion, Nguyen Ha Phan informed the Lao president that the Vietnamese delegation has been provided with conveniences and received good cooperation from the Lao side during its stay in the LPDR.

On the same day, the CPV delegation also met and exchanged views and experiences with the Lao delegations of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and the Ministry of Trade and Tourism.

The Vietnamese delegation will leave for home this morning after a week-long visit to Laos.

Minister Interviewed on Culture, Environment

BK1305121092 Vientiane KPL in English 0918 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] Vientiane, May 13 (KPL)—Minister of information and culture, Mr. Mounkeo Olaboun, granted here last week an interview on information and culture and environment in anticipation of the celebration of the International Day of the Decade of World Culture, 21st May.

The minister recalled the significance of the organization of the day of cultural decade by UNESCO, which is instrumental for the promotion of cultural heritage and the happiness of mankind. In 1986, the United Nations organization endorsed and enforced worldwide the World Program for Cultural Development with 10-year period of operation between 1988-1997 called World Decade for Cultural Development.

The minister also pointed to some past mistakes in the world development giving priority to the scientific and technological development alone. Efforts were made for economic and scientific development while cultural development was neglected. Then arose three main effects: effects on environment, effects on society structure, effects on mankind's way of life and mentality.

For these reasons, it sees a need to take actions for cultural development striving for four aims. They are to put culture as a core in development, to promote cultural characteristics, to attract the public in cultural activities, and to create the relations and cooperation in developing culture among nations.

The minister also pointed out to the plan for cultural development of Laos.

Philippines

President Aquino Praises Election Process 14 May

HK1405045992 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0239 GMT 14 May 92

[President Corazon Aquino's speech during the distribution of loans for the Community Mortgage Program, held at Heroes' Hall, Malacanang Palace, Manila—live; italicized passages in English]

[Text] I want to congratulate everyone who contributed to the success of our Community Mortgage Program [CMP], especially those members of urban poor organizations. Your patience and cooperation paved the way; so many of our people will be served by this program.

Indeed, more than any factor, it is your persistence, partnership, and support that make our development programs succeed. It is true that we have succeeded in infusing a new work ethic in our bureaucracy, with a bias for the poor. The National Housing Authority [NHA], under the leadership of Bobby Balao, is only one of the many agencies with an effective fast-track system and a package of services most responsive to the needs of the marginalized. There is no doubt in my mind that the women and men who comprise the NHA also have that sense of urgency and that high level of competence and efficiency to implement our socialized housing program. But the key to helping us help the homeless and the landless is the linkage we have forged with nongovernmental organizations [NGO's]—people's organizations and community associations.

The Community Mortgage Program, for example, grew out of extensive consultations with housing professionals, the urban poor, and civic groups working at the grass roots. Thus, its very design reflects the imperative of a high degree of the people's participation from planning to implementation to evaluation. The urban poor community, in partnership with NGO's and local government units, negotiates and purchases the land. The urban poor associations also initiate the construction, improvement, and repair of the housing projects. The role of government is limited to longterm financing and technical assistance. The CMP is really people-powered housing. I am proud that what began as an experiment is now the model for many poor communities in the region and for other developing countries.

Looking back, the past six years have been significant, not only in designing and implementing participatory development programs; they are vital in restoring public confidence in government, and in the Filipinos restoring confidence in themselves. This sense of civic competence is the hallmark of a democratic life—believing enough in themselves, in their ability to articulate their needs without fear, and making the system work in their favor.

Child or adult, poor or rich, famous or average—all are equal in a life of liberty. All have the chance to pursue their dream to improve their lives with effort, patience, and cooperation.

During the recent election, we witnessed the triumph of the democracy which we fought for. Once again we are seeing that democracy is very much alive in our country. In 1986, during the snap elections, I still remember how a number of people cowered in fear, feared being involved in the chaos and becoming a victim of violence. Many feared then that their votes would be wasted since their votes were not being counted correctly. Now, it is clear that the people are happy and free to go to the polling centers to vote. It is pleasing to know that our people monitored the candidates' fora and the interviews; they patiently noted the candidates for whom they would vote before heading for the precincts. This shows how the people value their right to vote and their duty to use this right in a good and proper way.

Now, I have received reports that more than 85 percent of our people voted. *This high voter turn-out is indeed a sign of the vitality and viability of our democracy. In the free world, this is one of the highest turn-outs, compared to other democratic nations—higher than the U.S., Japan, or Italy. In fact, if we look back at the four political exercises we had in the last six years, we averaged an 80 percent voter turn-out. The highest voter turn-out—which was 87.5 percent—was when our people ratified the 1987 Constitution.*

The Filipino has come of age as a responsible, mature voter; his right to vote, to choose the leaders of the nation, after all, is as much a civic duty. The credit for the honest, orderly, and peaceful elections goes to the Filipino people. With, I hope, that of an honest, hard-working, and socially responsible government. Let me reiterate my deepest appreciation to our people, the bedrock of our democracy.

If I may make a suggestion to my successor, it is for the Community Mortgage Program to be among the priorities of the incoming administration. The housing problem shall persist as the population and rural-to-urban migration continues to increase. We must continue to link arms to respond to housing needs—the community associations, the private land-owners and developers and our housing agencies. The CMP presents a model that has succeeded and continues to succeed because of the untiring participation and partnership of our people. It also poses many lessons which the next administration can learn from.

Once again I congratulate all who have made the Community Mortgage Program as responsive as it had hoped to be. I also commend the National Housing Authority and all our housing agencies for having introduced and institutionalized people-powered housing.

I now wish to invite all of you to take a tour of Malacanang Palace—the tour guides have been told to look after you. [applause] I am hoping that this palace will continue to be a museum, but perhaps it is best for you to visit it now so you can tell your children and friends about it.

I hope that in the coming days we can help the Commission on Elections carry out a peaceful canvassing of votes and an orderly transfer of power.

As I have said, in the future, should my help be needed—especially concerning the NGO's—I am asking for just two months' vacation, after which I will be ready to help you. Thank you very much.

Assails Cheating Politicians

HK1405060792 Quezon City DWDD Armed Forces Radio in Tagalog 0400 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] President Corazon Aquino yesterday assailed politicians who have been engaging in fraudulent activities only to win the election. The president said the cooperation shown by the people for a peaceful and orderly polls should not be reciprocated with cheating. The report on cheating by some politicians could affect the bright investment climate seen by investors in the country following the peaceful election. Mrs. Aquino added that politicians should emulate the good example shown by the voters.

Santiago Declares Victory, Expresses Fraud Fears

HK1405013192 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] Miriam Defensor Santiago has expressed fears that her opponents may tamper with ballot results to make her lose her top position. At the same time, Mrs. Santiago declared her victory in the polls. She said she believes she will win, but she asked her supporters to watch out for fraud in vote canvassing, especially during the latter part of the tabulations.

Laurel To Help Fight for Fair Count

HK1405084392 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 14 May 92

[By Restie de Quiros]

[Text] Vice President Salvador Laurel, Nacionalista Party [NP] presidential candidate, has expressed his support for People's Reform Party President Miriam Defensor Santiago's call for securing ballots in critical areas of the country. Laurel said that Miriam Santiago could be cheated because of her weak political machinery. He stressed that her ballots should be protected to avoid the occurrence of unpleasant events. He added that he has met with his political party leaders to

allow his party's political machinery to help Miriam fight for a clean and honest vote counting. In the meeting, the NP's Central Committee agreed to support a clean and orderly counting of votes. It said the wait for results would be long because the vote counting in some critical areas has not been done yet. The NP said its mobilization of its party machinery is not aimed at cheating election results but to ensure that the government is not using its own political machinery in manipulating the ballot count, and to prevent cheating and violence in critical areas.

Possible Santiago Protest Move Viewed

HK1405025492 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 14 May 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Miriam in White"]

[Text] One day after the elections, and barely after a million votes have been counted, Santiago hied off in triumphant white to Jaime Cardinal Sin's palace to beg him to use his influence to prevent any cheating that might happen in the days to come.

Now, whoever Miriam's PR advisers are, they know their business. They've hoisted the good cardinal in his own petard.

The "courtesy call" reverberates with meaning. Miriam has said before that she would not concede the elections if she loses. Which her publicists promptly deodorized into the tautologous, "She will not concede if she is cheated." Well, who in God's, or Cardinal Sin's, name will concede if he or she is cheated?

But that too is what she is saying now. For that is what it means to ask Cardinal Sin to help stop any possible cheating. It's the sort of innocent statement that reeks with guilt. For it presumes that the cheating will happen. It presumes that the trend will not change unless cheating happens. It presumes that she cannot lose unless cheating happens.

Lest the point be lost on us, she says so quite explicitly. The trend, she says—much like Cory did six years ago—is irreversible.

There's more.

For however Cardinal Sin's detractors may inveigh against it, he represents the spirit of EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] in the eyes of the faithful. He represents the struggle between good and evil, weak against strong. And good versus evil, weak against strong, is also how Miriam means this election to be read. It's the triumph of the small man against the seemingly invincible "machine." Just like the snap elections.

But just like the snap elections, Miriam suggests, that triumph may be snatched from her hands by the enemy at the 11th hour—by fraud. Well, there is Cardinal Sin to prevent it. Or failing that, there is Cardinal Sin to help right wrongs, or bring God's—and the people's—chosen to her rightful place.

Will her gambit work?

Well, the original gambit was Cory's and it worked. But that was then and this is now.

Unlike six years ago, there's a credible Comelec [Commission on Elections]. And there's widespread perception—for which Miriam's early lead itself serves as the best proof—that although some routine cheating is bound to happen, it won't affect the results of the elections. However slim his or her margin of victory, the victort has reasonably clean elections to point to.

With a credible Comelec, there will be credible explanations for why the trend may change, other than because of cheating. The simplest is that Miriam's current lead rests only on less than 3-4 percent of the total votes that have so far been reckoned. That is, less than a million votes out of about 25 million.

More than this, that percentage rests only on the urban votes that have been first to come in for reasons that are not hard to understand. The cities have the facilities. Now if the surveys are to be believed—the same surveys Miriam has rested her claim to victory on—there is a world of difference between the urban and rural vote. Unfortunate as it may be, that is where the machinery works. And scary as it may be, Eduardo Cojuangco may even race past Miriam and Ramos in the days to come.

If Miriam Santiago wins—and we wish her all our best—then we will accord her her due as president of the land. If she loses and takes to the streets as she has vowed she would, then we will leave her there. EDSA happened six years ago, as it should.

It won't happen this time. As it shouldn't.

Ramos Continues To Gain in Unofficial Counts

HK1405075092 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 14 May 92 p 1

[Text] Fidel Ramos began yesterday to narrow the gap between him and Miriam Defensor-Santiago in the presidential race as votes came in from places other than Metro Manila and Western Visayas, which had given her initial gains.

Ramos had 23.7% of the votes counted, while Santiago had 27%, cutting her lead to nearly 4% from the 6% she had held since the day before, according to the Media-Citizens Quick Count (MCQC) as of 8 last night with the votes from 5% of the precincts accounted for.

The MCQC is the only count accredited by the Commission on Elections [Comelec]. It is basing its count on official town and city totals provided it in a Comelec resolution.

Other counts, faster but unaccredited, put Ramos even closer, and in at least one the difference was 1%.

The shares of their next rivals were: Eduardo Cojuangco, 15%, Jovito Salonga, 11.8%; Ramon Mitra, 11.33%; Imelda Marcos, 9%; and Salvador Laurel, 1.7%. The rankings have held except for the 5th and 6th places—Mitra overtook Marcos.

In the vice-presidential race, the trend appeared to have been altered likewise for the two frontrunners. In fact, the change has been more dramatic. Marcelo Fernan, Mitra's running mate, cut the lead of Joseph Estrada, Cojuangco's partner, from 8% to 2%, with 26% of the votes counted going to Estrada and 25% to Fernan. Here's how their rivals fared: Emilio Osmena (Ramos), 17%; Ramon Magsaysay Jr. (Santiago), 16.7%; Aquilino Pimentel (Salonga), 12.3%; Vicente Magsaysay (Marcos), 2.9%; and Eva Estrada Kalaw (Marcos), 67% [as published].

Santiago Dismisses Ramos Surge

HK1405074692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0731 GMT 14 May 92

[By Roberto Coloma]

[Text] Manila, May 14 (AFP)—Former defense chief Fidel Ramos on Thursday overtook populist leader Miriam Santiago in an unofficial tally of the Philippine presidential polls as the first of their five rivals conceded defeat.

A quick count by the Roman Catholic church-backed ZNN broadcast network had Ramos grabbing 22.9 percent of the vote to Santiago's 22.2 percent, with 5.5 million or one-fifth of the estimated 27 million votes cast accounted for.

Right-wing tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco was running third with 17.4 percent.

But Santiago, citing her performance in pre-poll surveys by ZNN, dismissed Ramos's surge, saying she expected rural votes to boost her up again despite the popular perception that Ramos had a superior countryside machinery.

The ZNN count ended at noon Thursday on orders of the Commission on Elections (Comelec), which sought to end confusion resulting from rival tallies by press organizations. All had Ramos and Santiago running neck and neck.

The Comelec said that henceforth only its private arm, the Media Citizens Quick Count (MCQC), which started late, would be allowed to broadcast results.

But MCQC computers broke down Thursday because of the heat in its tallying center, the gymnasium of the Roman Catholic La Salle High School in suburban Manila, keeping the country in further suspense.

The last available MCQC results, issued at 2200 GMT Wednesday and based on 5.2 percent of the vote, had Santiago slightly ahead with 24.8 percent to Ramos' 24.2 percent.

House Speaker Ramon Mitra, backed by the country's largest party, conceded defeat Thursday, the first of the five trailing aspirants to do so. All counts had put him at the bottom with Vice President Salvador Laurel.

Mitra, founder and candidate of the ruling Struggle for a Democratic Philippines (LDP) party, said his vaunted political machinery collapsed on election day, and his local candidates abandoned him to save themselves.

"It hurts too much to laugh, and I'm too old to cry," the 64-year-old Mitra told THE MANILA TIMES.

President Corazon Aquino abandoned the LDP after it chose Mitra in a presidential convention and threw her support behind Ramos, who helped install her in power and saved her government from seven coup attempts.

Mitra, a political veteran known for his skills as a backroom dealer, said the strong showing of Santiago, a newcomer, showed that "there is now really a definite resistance against traditional politicians" like himself.

"Well, that's good for the country. Nobody can be sure of his district now, his constituency. We really have to sit down and reflect on this," he said.

He said Santiago, a 46-year-old ex-judge whose anti-corruption tirades thrilled crowds, received "protest votes" from Filipinos infatuated with "a new personality who speaks differently."

The Philippine stock market, enjoying one of its strongest showings in the wake of Monday's largely peaceful and orderly polls, continued its upswing, posting a 0.7 percent increase in the composite index.

Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao said the election was "very good" for the country's battered image.

"I am sure that the investments will begin to really come in and not only from the domestic investors but also from foreign investors," she told journalists. "From what I know people have just been waiting for a credible election process."

Ramos Urges Marcos, Laurel To Concede Election

HK1405013092 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] Presidential candidate Fidel Ramos has urged former first lady Imelda Marcos and Vice President Salvador Laurel to concede their loss in the election. The latest vote count shows that the New Society Party and the Nacionalista Party presidential candidates are losing. Ramos said he would accept his loss to Miriam Defensor Santiago if the People's Reform Party standard bearer is shown to be leading in the rest of the official canvassing of votes. Ramos emphasized, however, that this does not mean he may not lodge a protest with the Commission on Elections. He also said that Mrs. Santiago's unexpected lead is not surprising, since the majority of returns thus far have come from her bailiwicks.

Meanwhile, Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. is refusing to concede his defeat in the presidential stakes, even though he is on the bottom of the initial unofficial count. He said this after his chief campaign strategist said that 60 percent of his party's machinery has been going well. Mitra said he does not want to jeopardize the chances of the Struggle of Filipino Democrats' senatorial candidates and others running for local positions. His campaign manager, Paul Aquino, said that on the municipal level, as well as the provincial and congressional levels, their party machinery is doing well. Aquino said they have not lost hope for the vice presidential race, since partial unofficial results show that Marcelo Fernan is in second position. He blamed their party's mayoral candidates for having ditched Mitra to get Iglesia ni Kristo [Church of Christ] support. Aquino said there are many other factors why their party is doing poorly, but he said the real reasons will be known after three or four weeks.

Mitra 'Graciously' Concedes

HK1405020892 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Although not all votes have been counted, House Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. has already graciously conceded his defeat in the presidential race. In an interview, Mitra said he already noticed that he was trailing as soon as the first 1,000 votes started coming in from the precincts. The House Speaker said he would either return to media, tend to his business, or simply rest after the official results of the elections have been issued and after his tenure as house speaker ends.

It is known that Mitra had already prepared a statement conceding defeat as early as last Tuesday; however he did not want to dishearten his candidates who are still fighting it out on the local level.

Mitra blamed the Church of Christ for exerting pressure on his local leaders by issuing its own sample ballot.

Although Mitra was saddened by the results of the canvassing, he said that he will call Miriam Defensor Santiago and former Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos today in order to congratulate them on their lead in the partial election results.

Manila Police on Alert for Poll Count Disruption

HK1305110892 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] Manila police commanders are on alert and are enforcing tight security on major installations like the Manila Electric Company and the Philippine Long Distance Telephone. This is following reports that political goons and other criminal elements are planning to disrupt the counting of election returns.

Marino Filart, National Capital Region chief, has ordered setting up more check points on strategic places to prevent any disruption in the counting of ballots.

Meanwhile, General Cesar Nazareno, Philippine National Police [PNP] director, said the PNP, with the support of the military, is prepared to thwart any threat that would block an orderly and peaceful canvassing of votes. He strongly denied reports that the PNP plans to manipulate the election results as alleged by the Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance [RAM]. Earlier, rebels or right-wing elements tried to bomb six of the National Power Corporation's towers in Marikina, Valenzuela, Malabon, Navotas, Caloocan and Meycauayan, Bulacan.

Work To Continue Despite Threats

HK1305111792 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] Media Citizens Quick Count [MCQC] administrators firmly announced today that election result tabulations shall go on in spite of bomb threats and power sabotage which allegedly came from the Reform the Armed Forces Movement. Raul Locsin, one of the MCQC organizers, said that the vote counting shall proceed until the final election returns are turned over to them by the Commission on Elections. Locsin said they have the ability to respond to any emergency situation. He added that they have high-power generators which will supply the energy requirements in case of brownouts.

Senate Vote Canvassing Begins

HK1405052892 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] The Commission on Elections [Comelec] has started the official vote counting for the senatorial candidates. This is being done at the Army and Navy Club and at Rizal Park, and is being witnessed by representatives from the different political parties. The Comelec has made clear that it will only canvass senatorial votes, since under the Electoral Reform Law, the Congress, in joint session, takes over from the board of canvassers to determine the votes for president and vice president.

Tony Valencia has the full report:

[Begin Valencia recording] The poll body has asked all the political parties with senatorial candidates to send their people to witness the canvassing. Comelec Chairman Christian Monsod urged members of the National Board of Canvassers to complete the job and proclaim the winner at the earliest possible time. However, he did not give a time-table because of some uncertain factors. [end recording]

Meanwhile, all radio and television stations will stop their quick count tallies at noon. Comelec has said that only the Media Citizens Quick Count will be conducting the canvassing. Earlier, some parties and candidates complained about the unofficial canvassing going on which they claim set an unfavorable trend.

Foreign Business Sectors Laud Body

HK1405030892 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 14 May 92 p 12

[Text] Foreign chamber officials are unanimous in commending the Commission on Elections (Comelec) for making the synchronized elections fairly peaceful. However, they expressed disappointment over the slow counting, which they said gives rise to speculations.

Australian Chamber president Peter Wallace said Comelec did a "superb job" while American Chamber executive director Robert Sears takes his "hats off" to the Comelec, which he regards as the most credible government institution today.

After the elections, foreign businessmen are watching out for the economic policy of the new government.

The economic platforms of the two leading presidential candidates, Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Fidel Ramos, are "both fairly good policies," said Mr. Wallace.

He told BUSINESS WORLD both reflected outward-oriented ideas. However, he wondered how each will deal with a Legislature dominated by the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [Struggle of filipino Democrats].

Both Messers. Wallace and Sears agree that a "working team" should be formed to push economic policies to a single direction.

In particular, Mr. Sears is watching out for personalities the new leader will place in the different executive positions. He realized that "one person cannot do it all. A team of good executives is needed to push this country towards economic growth and creation of jobs."

Meanwhile, many foreign and even local executives are on extended vacation leaves.

Starting last weekend, one can hardly catch a top executive in town. For this reporter, it was especially difficult to get hold of credible sources in business associations.

The chairman of a top multinational ad agency is out of the country and will reportedly return only in June. The vice-president of another foreign chamber is out of the country attending conferences. Almost all of this chamber's board of directors are also either abroad or out of town.

Some American Chamber officials are also on leave until next month.

However, Mr. Sears said this trend should not be interpreted as "hiding" from possible election disturbances. He explained this period is part of "normal travel," coinciding with summer vacation where most experts take their yearly month-long leave.

Continuing Election Violence, Problems Reported

Canvassing Suspended in Pampanga

HK1405022292 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Ballot canvassing in four towns in Pampanga was halted when supporters of various local candidates stormed various precincts in protest of the rampant cheating in these towns. Canvassing was suspended in Sto. Tomas, Minalin, Bacolor, and Magalang.

Meanwhile, it was reported that a number of voters were disenfranchised. More than 1,000 voters complained that they were not able to find their names on the Commission for Election's master list. Others complained that other people had voted using their names even before they reached the precincts.

Bacolod Installations Guarded

HK1405084192 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 14 May 92

[By Andy Delgado]

[Text] The Bacolod Philippine National Police has been ordered to guard around the clock at the Bacolod City Hall and the Home Economics Building of the Rizal Elementary School, where all the election returns are stored. This comes after the police received an intelligence report saying that rebels plan to bomb these areas to destroy the ballots being counted in the provinces of Negros Occidental and Bacolod. Security has also been stepped up at National Power Corporation's [Napocor] sub-stations in barangay Mansilingan in Bacolod.

Chief Inspector Rogelio Palamero, acting station commander of the Bacolod Police, said a bomb threat was also received at the Napocor Mansilingan sub-station. This sub-station connects the mainlines from the Valentino Geothermal Powerplant in Negros Oriental to Negros Occidental and supplies electricity to the northern and central Negros areas. The intelligence report said there have already been New People's Army rebels deployed to Bacolod and they are armed with large-caliber firearms like Uzis, .45 caliber pistols, 9-mm pistols and Galil automatic rifles. In view of this, 15 selected bomb experts have been deployed by the police to guard these government installations to thwart the rebels' attempt to bomb the area to disrupt the ballot counting.

Ballot Boxes Burned in Quezon

HK1305131292 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1242 GMT 13 May 92

[By Benjie de Galicia in southern Tagalog]

[Text] Ten ballot boxes have been taken out of the Mauban, Quezon Municipal Hall by the supporters of Mayor Sardia. The ballot boxes were later burned, resulting in the suspension of canvassing votes in the

municipality. This incident occurred at 1700 today. There was an earlier report stating that Mayor Sardia stormed the Mauban Municipal Hall. This reporter contacted the provincial election supervisor Attorney Ilagan, who said the first report he recieved was merely about the mayor entering the hall. However, as of broadcast time and after speaking to incumbent Quezon Governor Eddie Rodriguez at his residence in Lucena City, it was confirmed that a total of 10 ballot boxes were taken away and burned outside the Municipal Hall by the mayor's supporters.

Military To Respect Election Results

HK1405052092 Quezon City DWDD Armed Forces Radio in Tagalog 0400 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Brigadier General Emiliano Templo, Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] Civil Military Operations chief, issued a statement today following a letter by the Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance, signed by Gabriel Dimasupil. According to General Templo, the military will respect the results of the elections and are prepared to thwart any attempt to disrupt the peaceful canvassing of votes and the proclamation of the country's next president.

At the same time, General Templo assured the nation that the AFP is prepared to maintain peace and order and to protect the Constitution of the Philippines.

More Reportage on National Powerline Bombing

Aquino Dismisses RAM Claim

HK1305110192 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] President Aquino has brushed aside an accusation by the Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance [RAM] that military men allegedly tagged as the Aquino-Ramos-De Villa-Abadia-Nazareno clique was responsible for the bombing of National Power Corporation's relay stations and power lines. This, according to the RAM, is to manipulate the election result in favor of Ramos.

In a press statement, the president said this clique does not exist. She added that this only proves that the coup rumor plotters have very low credibility. She stressed that the RAM statement is like a fairy tale which does not warrant her response.

In related news, Executive Franklin Drilon has blamed the power lines bombings on the ultra-rightists and the ultra-leftists because they are the only groups that have the ability to launch such terrorist activities.

Ultra-Rightists Said Responsible

HK1305110592 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] General Wilfredo Reototar, Philippine National Police chief for operations, has confirmed that ultra-rightist groups are responsible for the bombing of National Power Corporation [Napocor] transmission lines in various provinces. In an interview with DZRH, Reototar explained that the rightists' move is aimed at sabotaging the election process in the country. According to him, the rightist rebels know that destroying Napocor transmission lines could cause the discontinuation of elections in some areas of the country. Here is part of General Reototar's statement:

[Begin Reototar recording] According to the report that we received, the perpetrators of these bombing incidents are members of a URG, or ultra-rightist group. However, we are not discounting the fact that these incidents may have also been caused by the Communist Party of the Philippines-New Peoples's Army in order to disrupt the peaceful situation during the election period. [end recording]

Police Arrest Suspect

HK1305122392 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] Philippine National Police [PNP] agents have arrested the head of a group responsible for planting bombs on the National Power Corporation's [Napocor] towers and transmission lines in various parts of the country. The PNP identified the suspect as Fred Bero, a known ultrarightist hardliner, a former military officer, and a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy Class 1985. Three of Bero's men were also arrested but the PNP refused to identify them. Bero and his three men are now under tactical interrogation in Camp Crame. It will be recalled that rightist forces attempted to bomb several Napocor power houses to sabotage the election in the country.

Abadia 'Strongly' Dismisses Rightist Coup Plan

HK1405101192 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0900 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, has strongly dismissed a report of another coup d' etat being planned by rightist rebels. In an interview with DZRH, Abadia said that this report is just part of the destabilization move of the RAM-SFP-YOU [Reform the Armed Force Movement-Soldier of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union] in order to disrupt the election process. According to him, the reported Operation Plan Olympic Day was the same RAM-SFP plan set for holy week, in which the rebels are supposed to plant bombs in National Power Corporation power houses. Here is part of General Abadia's message:

[Begin Abadia recording in progress] ...these are just part their destabilization activities, like bombing. [end recording]

Team To Monitor Coup Attempts

HK1405051492 Quezon City DWDD Armed Forces Radio in Tagalog 0400 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] The Philippine National Police [PNP] has formed an alert team to monitor any attempt by rebels to launch a coup against the government. This measure follows several successive attempts to bomb National Power Corporation [NPC] transmission towers while votes are counted.

The PNP has also set up several checkpoints in certain areas and deployed additional security forces around the towers. PNP Chief General Cesar Nazareno has also ordered tightening security around NPC facilities and several other establishments, including places where ballot counting is being conducted in Metro Manila and the provinces.

Thailand

Foreign Minister Hosts Lunch for U.S. Official

BK1305101992 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Pongphon Adireksan hosted a lunch for Arnold Kanter, U.S. under secretary of state for political affairs, at Kraithot Room of the Foreign Ministry at noon today. The U.S. official is visiting Thailand from 10 to 12 May.

The foreign minister told reporters that the three major topics brought up for discussion with the under secretary of state were as follows:

The first was about Thailand's political situation in the past week. The foreign minister informed the U.S. side of the actual developments and the settlement of the problem through constitutional amendements. The U.S. side expressed its keen interest in this matter and believed the Thai Government can solve the problem through peaceful means.

The second was about the delay in the operation of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia. The U.S. Government has reaffirmed its decision on its assistance now pending congressional approval. The U.S. side also expressed its concern about the election in Cambodia which it wanted held as quick as possible.

The last topic discussed was about the Libyan situation, a common concern for both Thailand and the United States, as there are as many as 25,000 Thai workers in that country. The Thai Government, in particular the Foreign and Interior Ministries, has worked out a three-stage plan for the evacuation of Thai workers from Libya. Mr. Kanter explained the actions taken in compliance with the UN sactions against Libya which are aimed at forcing Libyan leaders to honor the UN resolution. If they fail, other drastic measures will be taken.

SRV Warns Fishing Agreement May Be Delayed

BK1405005992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 May 92 p A2

[Text] Hanoi has hinted that the continuing detention of 15 Vietnamese sailors caught off the Vietnamese coast in March may negatively affect the new-found confidence between Thailand and Vietnam, especially where cooperation on fisheries in concerned.

It also repeated a call to Thai authorities to release the 15 as soon as possible.

The call was conveyed to the Foreign Ministry on Monday by the Vietnamese Ambassador to Thailand Nguyen Trung who said new evidence obtained back home proved them to be innocent of the Thai accusations.

Nguyen Trung said in an interview that he informed the Foreign Ministry's permanent Secretary Witthaya Wetchachiwa that Hanoi was very unhappy with the March 4 capture of the Vietnamese sailors.

Nguyen Trung said the results of a Vietnamese investigation into the incident off the Southern-coastal province of Kien Giang proved to be inconsistent with the Thai Navy's charges that the capitives were "sea pirates".

"They were attacked by a Thai naval ship while patrolling on a small armed boat in Vietnamese territorial waters. The flash point was at the coordination of 7 degrees 84 minutes north and 103 degree 25 minutes east," the ambassador said.

The ambassador also said the new evidence corroborated the accounts given by the captives when they were interviewed by embassy staff on Monday, the first time Vietnamese officials were allowed to visit them since their arrest.

The Thai navy rounded up the 15 after a brief exchange of gunfire which sank the Vietnamese boat. They were accused of trespassing Thai waters and suspected of priacy and detained at a Chanthaburi prison.

The ambassador said he also urged the authorities to accord lenient treatment to the detainees whose legs were chained, according to embassy officials who interviewed them.

The sailors also alleged that they were beaten when they were arrested. "We have requested the authorities free them from the chains. Because it (chaining) was improper treatment for the sailors. They are being treated like criminals," the ambassador said.

He pointed out that if the Vietnamese public became aware of the issue, it may be emotionalized and would sour bilateral relations which he said have reached a very important stage of development following the exchange of visits between the former Thai premier and the Vietnamese prime minister.

He also cautioned that the matter must be handled carefully by the Thai authorities to avoid unpleasant consequences.

Nguyen Trung hinted that the issue may affect the finalizing of the fisheries agreement between the two governments.

The ambassador said the accord was about to be signed by the prime ministers of both nations during former Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun's visit to Vietnam early this year but was suspended because of strong opposition from the two important fishing towns of Minh Hai and Kien Giang.

The provincial authorities, according to the ambassador, claimed that at the time Thai trawlers were still fishing illegaly in Vietnamese seas.

He said it was necessary to build up an atmosphere of goodwill otherwise it would be very difficult to persuade those towns to cooperate in the matter.

As part of the mutual confidence building, officials from both sides agreed to meet very soon to identify overlapping territorial waters, so that the area could be utilized in a similar fashion to the "Joint Development Area" between Thailand and Malaysia in the Gulf of Thailand.

SRV Delegation To Attend Mekong Meeting

BK1405005392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 May 92 p A2

[Text] Hanoi has agreed to send a delegation to the Thai-proposed meeting of the Mekong Committee's working group scheduled to take place here by the end of next month, to break a deadlock over how to reactivate the body after 17 years of hiatus, said its ambassador here.

Vietnamese Ambassador to Thailand Nguyen Trung said the working group would be tasked with finding a compromise solution to the differences between Thailand and Vietnam on how Cambodia could be readmitted to the committee which has been inactive since its departure in 1975.

"The working group will decide which problem should be tackled first," said Nguyen Trung who referred to a number of problems facing the committee raised by both nations. These included the Thai proposal to restructure the committee instead of resorting to the original one.

Nguyen Trung said it was agreed that the composition of each delegation to the meeting would include both foreign ministry and Mekhong Committee officials since the talks would involve many technical issues.

The ambassador added that the delegations could be headed either by the deputy prime ministers or permanent secretaries of both foreign ministries.

He said both sides were in accord that a meeting at the ambassadorial level be held in early June to prepare the working group's agenda.

Hanoi boycotted the Bangkok-sponsored informal meeting of Mekong Committee in March, as a sign of protest against Thailand's unilateral postponement of a plenary session set for mid-February due to the unsettled question of Cambodian participation.

The March meeting intended to bring together the Mekong Committee's four original members—Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia and future members from upstream states like Burma and China to discuss basin-wide cooperation.

The ambassador admitted that the question posed a big problem for bilateral relations between Thailand and Vietnam which had been at their best since the exchange of visits by prime ministers of both countries in November and January.

He said the continuation of good relations was necessary for the benefit of both countries as well as the region as a whole.

Burmese Troops Threaten Border Villagers

BK1205003192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 May 92 p 8

[Text] Tak—More than 100 people—children, the elderly and women—have moved out of their village at night, fearing Burmese attacks from across the border in Mae Sot District.

Officials said the attacks on Thai border villages are expected since Myawadi authorities accused six Thai men of having helped Karen National Union rebels in an attack on a Burmese village near Phalu camp in which eight Burmese civilians were killed and 22 injured.

A kamnan [village headman] of Tambon Mahawan in Mae Sot said that since early this month the children, the elderly and women of Mae Konekan village have been leaving their homes at night and returning in the day following threats from Phalu camp officials.

Border patrol police, defence volunteers and villagers are patrolling the village at night while authorities on both sides of the border have barred civilians from crossing as tension rises.

A cross-border exchange of gunfire took place recently but there was no report of casualties on either side.

The officials said Myawadi authorities have lodged a letter of protest and asked for 2.3 million baht in compensation from their Thai counterparts.

The Burmese officials claimed relatives of each of the eight Burmese killed in the Karen attack which was allegedly supported by the six Thais should be given 100,000 baht compensation while those of the injured should be given 50,000 baht each.

Each of the four homes destroyed in the attack should be compensated by 100,000 baht, the officials claimed in their letter.

The Kamnan dismissed the accusations, arguing that no Thai civilian had set foot on Burmese territory since the ban on border crossings was imposed.

Meanwhile, Burmese border security forces shot dead a Thai civilian tending his livestock in Burma opposite Mae Konekan village last month.

The Burmese did not allow relatives of the deceased to bring back his body, forcing them to hold a funeral in Burma.

Paper Backs Call for 17 May Ra'lly

BK1305011792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 May 92 p A6

[Editorial: "Time To Take Control of Our Destiny"]

[Text] Premier Gen Suchinda Khraprayun's promise to give the five government parties a "free hand" in amending the undemocratic Constitution any way they want should be taken at face value. He was correct in reiterating yesterday that he cannot play any part in this affair since he isn't a member of the elected House of Representatives; he has resigned from the Senate, and he doesn't belong to any of the government parties.

Moreover, one of the proposed amendments seeks to disqualify all non-MPs, including Suchinda, from the premiership. Parliamentary etiquette requires that he stay out of the debate over the amendments to avoid any conflict of interest.

This is in Suchinda's advantage. From now on he will deflect all criticism with his "non-interference" posture, and in effect pass the buck to the House to end the present political crisis arising from strong public opposition to his lack of political legitimacy.

However, his call for a complete end to all protests against him while Parliament is processing the proposed amendments is sheer wishful thinking. The government parties have already given contradictory signals about their real intentions. Most of them have distanced themselves from the tentative agreement with the four opposition parties that they would cooperate in removing undemocratic clauses from the Constitution. They now contend that House Speaker Dr Athit Urairat, who chaired the meeting and announced the "good news" about the informal pact on TV last Saturday, did so in his personal capacity, and without commiting the five parties to any specific amendments.

If this is only a tactic by the government coalition to play for time in order to prepare counterproposals, it is a very cruel one. The government parties didn't bother to save the fact of the House Speaker, who is a senior member of Samakkhi Tham, the largest government party. They didn't display any trust in their own senior executives who attended the meeting. Worst of all, their tactic is a tremendous letdown to people who counted on the government parties to honour the agreement and join the opposition in improving the Constitution without delay.

The delay could be interpreted as a signal that the government coalition is unwilling to bar non MPs from holding the premiership. If this is the case, it will only increase the political tensions and lead to serious consequences. Hunger striker Chalat Worachat, for one, seemed to have given up all hope in the parliamentary process. Yesterday he gave a new ultimatum—if Suchinda does not resign by May 24, he will stop taking fluids from that day on.

Chalat also called for a new protest rally starting from next Monday to put additional pressure on Suchinda. But the lone hunger striker is in no condition to go without water for more than a few days. Should he die, his death would further complicate the issue and escalate the confrontation between Suchinda and his opponents.

Suchinda's opponents have called for a mass rally at Sanam Luang on Sunday [17 May] to respond to whatever the government parties come up with in their counterproposals on the constitutional amendment. The danger is that the rally may turn to blame Suchinda for ignoring Chalat and dismiss whatever compromise that the Opposition may be able to work out with the government coalition.

We now have two basic alternatives. We do nothing and let outside pressures, like Chalat's ultimatum or Chamlong's personal animosity toward Suchinda, make the parliamentary process to amend the Constitution more difficult and force a showdown with Suchinda and his military backers. Or we can give ourselves, our nation, another chance—perhaps the last we can expect—by forcing the government parties to work in good faith with the Opposition and amending the Constitution to make it more accepable to all parties.

A massive, peaceful rallly on Sunday that does not turn into a display of intransigence is a good way to show the government parties that the people are not about to let themselves be deceived any longer.

This latter choice allows us to take full responsibility for our collective destiny, whereas letting outside pressures dictate to us only promotes the self-defeating illusion that the situation has gone out of control and whatever will be, will be.

Paper Says Government 'Forcing a Showdown'

BK1405003792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 May 92 p A6

[Editorial: "Government's Actions Are Only Forcing a Showdown"]

[Text] The five government parties are complicating the tense political situation with their disagreements, both real and faked, on how to amend the Constitution. This augurs badly for them and fuels skepticism that the parliamentary system is being used as a political tool to legitimize the controversial premiership of Gen Suchinda Khraprayun.

Publicly the government parties would concede that the Constitution contains several undemocratic features that must be removed as soon as possible. Privately, however, they would contend that they have every right to defend Suchinda and stay in power by sticking to him despite the public outcry for his resignation.

Naturally, the government parties feel they have little to gain from Suchinda's ouster. If they don't help Suchinda and he is cornered, Suchinda may choose to get back at them by dissolving the House and calling a fresh general election.

The financiers of the government parties are reputed to have invested billions of baht in the March 22 election to win enough House seats to form this coalition government. Several of them were rewarded with ministerial posts. Their election "investment" and their newly-acquired power would just come to naught if there were to be a new election soon.

A new election would certainly see the four opposition parties, New Aspiration, Democrat, Phalang Tham, and Solidarity win more House seats by capitalizing on their collective victory in forcing Suchinda out of office. At the same time the five government parties would be hard pressed to explain to the electorate their questionable decision to "invite" Suchinda to head their coalition government.

Since the government parties and Suchinda are in the same boat, their survival instincts dictate that they do everything not to rock the boat and to foil all of the enemy's attacks on it. At the same time they must pretend to have faith in the parliamentary system by joining the Opposition in making proposals on how to amend the Constitution.

The key Opposition proposal is to bar non-MPs from holding the premiership—and to make this constitutional amendment effective immediately. In other words the Opposition wants to sack Suchinda with the amendment. Most of the government parties like the idea that a prime minister be selected by and from the elected House. But they oppose the Opposition's attempt to drive Suchinda out of office this way, claiming that no law should be made retroactive just to disqualify somebody.

Instead of concentrating on this key amendment, the government parties are overloading the amendment process with proposals that are urgent issues at present. The Samakkhi Tham Party, for example, wants to lower the voting age from 20 to 18, increase the power of parliamentary committees, and change the electoral system from individual candidacy to group candidacy. It also wants to reduce the number of the unelected senators to one-third the number of the MPs. This is enough to alienate most of the 270 senators—all hand-picked by Suchinda and his military colleages in the now defunct National Peacekeeping Council—from the 360-member House.

Now is not the time for the government parties to try to pull the wool over people's eyes. The double-talk only makes people angrier. They must promptly come up with a position on the amendment concerning the qualifications of a prime minister.

This will give the four opposition parties and their allies outside Parliament, who are calling for Suchinda's resignation, something to chew on before their rally at Sanam Luang on Sunday. As things stand now the rally promises to be the biggest ever in this country.

Growing public resentment about Suchinda and the government parties is clearly discernible. The government's latest attempt to intimidate Bangkok Governor Kritsada Arunwong, a member of the Phalang Tham Party, will only backfire. Interior Minister ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Anan Kalintha yesterday faulted Kritsada, who won the gubernatorial election with nearly 364,000 votes last month, for aiding organizers of the recent protest rallies by providing them with toilet trucks, water tankers, ambulances and medical teams.

Minister Anan shows no respect for the people's right to these basic health services, which the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration can give without necessarily compromising its political neutrality. He doesn't seem to believe the people have a constitutional right to hold public, peaceful protest rallies either. He has instructed the provincial governors to stop every group wanting to join the anti-Suchinda rallies from coming to Bangkok.

This blatantly unconstitutional action, like the intimidation of the Bangkok governor, reflected the true authoritarian nature of Minister Anan and Suchinda—the so called "neutral outsiders" with a self-assigned mission to clean up national politics.

Suchinda and his government are forcing their opponents into a showdown outside Parliament. The people now have no other alternative but to stand up and demand to be heard.

This is a showdown in which our national future as well as our value as free, thinking individuals is at stake. People's power must prevail.

Cabinet Approves Fiscal 1993 Budget

BK1305012992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 May 92 p 17

[Text] The Cabinet yesterday approved a 550,000-million-baht expenditure budget for the 1993 fiscal year, 5,000 million baht more than the amount proposed by the previous government.

Finance Minister Suthi Singsane said the budget would still be balanced, despite the 5,000-million-baht increase in spending. It would be the third consecutive fiscal yar that the budget was balanced.

The new budget figure would be 89,600 million baht, or 19.5 per cent, greater than this fiscal year's expenditure budget, Mr Suthi said.

Meanwhile, Budget Bureau Director Bodi Chunnanon said the budget approved yesterday was higher than the previous proposal because the bureau believed it was more in line with Thailand's expanding economy.

The bigger budget would also help the Government to boost spending on rural area development and provide assistance to drought victims.

"The Budget Bureau also requested all ministers to delete all unnecessary projects and emphasise their investments only in projects which are in line with the new Government's policies," Mr Bodi said.

Mr Bodi said the Budget Bureau also decided to increase the 1993 expenditure budget because trends showed that the Government's revenue collection would be higher than expected.

Dr Suthi said the Cabinet yesterday also adjusted spending policy to be in line with the new Government's policies with emphasis on the following five areas:

—Developing and creating fairness in Thailand by developing rural areas and low-income communities in towns;

—Developing human resources and the quality thereof;

—Conserving and rehabilitating natural resources and developing the quality of the environment;

—Maintaining a stable economic growth rate by rehabilitating agriculture, decentralising industries to rural areas, developing the commercial and service sectors, developing infrastructural facilities, and

—Developing science and technology.

The structure of the adjusted budget for 1993 was:

—Investment budget—156,265.1 million baht, equivalent to 28.4 per cent of the total budget and 25,613.4 million baht or 19.6 per cent higher than this fiscal year;

—Regular expenditures—356,402.4 million baht, equivalent to 54.5 per cent of the total budget and 54,583.3 million baht or 18.1 per cent higher than this fiscal year and

—Debt repayment—37,332.5 million baht, equivalent to 6.8 per cent of the total budget and 9,403.3 million baht or 33.7 per cent higher than this fiscal year.

Deputy Director of Intelligence Agency Appointed

BK1305120592 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 12 May 92

[Excerpt] The cabinet at its today's meeting approved the appointment of Bunchot Phromsi, assistant director of the National Intelligence Ageny, to be deputy director of the agency. [passage omitted]

Vietnam

Law on National Assembly Organization

BK1205131592 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 22 Apr 92, pp 2,3

[Full text of the "Law Governing the Organization of the National Assembly, passed on 15 April 1992 by the Eighth SRV National Assembly at its 11th Session"]

[Text] Pursuant to Chapter VI of the SRV's 1992 Constitution, this law defines the organization and activities of the National Assembly, of the National Assembly Standing Committee, and of other National Assembly councils and committees. It also defines the duties and powers of National Assembly deputies.

Chapter I: Generalities

Article 1: The National Assembly is the people's highest organ of representatives. It is also the SRV's highest organ of power.

The National Assembly is the only organ with legislative and constitutional powers.

The National Assembly shall decide on fundamental domestic and foreign policies, on the country's socioeconomic and national defense and security tasks, and on those essential principles related to the organization and activities of the state apparatus and to the social relations and activities of citizens.

The National Assembly shall exercise its supreme supervisory right over the entire activities of the state.

Article 2: The National Assembly shall be vested with the following duties and powers:

1. Compile and amend the Constitution; enact and amend laws; and decide on a program for the building of laws and regulations.

2. Exercise its supreme supervisory right over the enforcement of the Constitution, laws, and resolutions of the National Assembly; and check those activity reports of the president of the state, the National Assembly Standing Committee, the government, the Supreme People's Court, and the Supreme People's Organ of Control.

3. Decide on national socioeconomic development plans.

4. Decide on national financial and monetary policies, on state budget estimates, and on state budget distributions; ratify final balances of state budget; and decide on the revision or abrogation of various kinds of taxes.

5. Decide on the state's nationalities policy.

6. Define the organization and activities of the National Assembly, the president of the state, the government, the people's court, the people's organ of control, and local administrations.

7. Elect, release from duties, and dismiss the president of the state, the vice president of the state, the chairman and vice-chairmen of the National Assembly, members of the National Assembly Standing Committee, the prime minister, the chief justice of the Supreme People's Court, and the procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control; ratify proposals by the president of the state for the setting up of the national defense and security council; and ratify proposals by the prime minister for the appointment or release vice premiers, ministers, and other members of the government from duty.

8. Decide on the creation or dissolution of various ministries or ministerial-level governmental organs; set up, merge, subdivide, or readjust the territorial boundaries of those provinces and cities under central authority; and set up or deactivate special administrative-economic units.

9. Abrogate those documents of the president of the state, the National Assembly Standing Committee, the government, the prime minister, the Supreme People's Court, and the Supreme People's Organ of Control which are deemed contradictory to the Constitution, laws, and resolutions of the National Assembly.

10. Decide on granting amnesty.

11. Establish positions and ranks for the people's armed forces, positions and ranks for the foreign service, and positions and ranks for other sectors of the state; and establish orders, medals, and other state titles of honor.

12. Decide on the question of war and peace, on states of emergency, and on other special measures aimed at ensuring national defense and security.

13. Decide on fundamental foreign policies; and at the recommendation by the president of the state, ratify or annul those international treaties which have already been signed or to which accession has been gained.

14. Decide on a referendum.

Article 3: The organization and activities of the National Assembly shall be carried out in accordance with the principle of democratic centralism. The National Assembly shall operate as a parliamentary system and shall make decisions based on majority vote.

The efficiency of the National Assembly shall be ensured by the performance of various National Assembly sessions, of the National Assembly Standing Committee, and of other National Assembly councils and committees, National Assembly teams, and individual National Assembly deputies.

Article 4: The National Assembly, the National Assembly Standing Committee, other National Assembly councils and committees, and individual National Assembly deputies shall rely on the Vietnam Fatherland Front, as well as other social organizations and citizens in discharching their duties and powers.

State organs, social and economic organizations, military units shall, within their functions and duties, be responsible for creating conditions for National Assembly councils, committees, and deputies to discharge their duties.

Chapter II: The National Assembly Chairman and National Assembly Standing Committee

Article 5: The National Assembly Standing Committee consists of its chairman, vice chairmen, and members, and is headed by its chairman and vice chairmen.

Members of the National Assembly Standing Committee cannot be members of the government, and must discharge their duties according to special operating procedures.

The term of the National Assembly Standing Committee corresponds with that of the National Assembly. At the end of the term of the old National Assembly, its Standing Committee shall carry on its duties until a new National Assembly Standing Committee is elected.

Article 6: The National Assembly Standing Committee has the following rights and duties:

1. Announce and oversee the election of National Assembly deputies.

2. Make preparations for, convene, and direct National Assembly sessions.

3. Interpret the Constitution, laws, and regulations.

4. Set forth the regulations governing the handling of issues as requested by the National Assembly.

5. Oversee the enforcement of the Constitution, laws, National Assembly resolutions, and the National Assembly Standing Committee's regulations and resolutions; oversee the activities of the government, the People's Supreme Court, and the People's Supreme Organ of Control; suspend the enforcement of those documents of the government, the prime minister, the People's Supreme Court, and the People's Supreme Organ of Control which are at variance with the Constitution, laws, and National Assembly resolutions, as well as keep the National Assembly informed of such moves so it can decide on their abolishment; and abrogate those documents of the government, the prime minister, the People's Supreme Court, and the People's Supreme Organ of Control which are at variance with the regulations and resolutions adopted by the National Assembly Standing Committee.

6. Oversee and direct the operations of people's councils; abrogate those incorrect resolutions of people's councils in the various provinces and cities under direct management of the central government; and dissolve those councils if their wrongdoings have caused serious damage to the people's interests.

7. Guide, regulate, and coordinate the activities of the Nationalities Council and other National Assembly committees, as well as provide guidance over National Assembly deputies and secure conditions for their operations.

8. When the National Assembly is not in session, ratify the prime minister's proposal for appointing, dismissing, or discharging deputy prime ministers, ministers, and other members of the government, as well as notify the National Assembly of such actions at its earliest session.

9. When the National Assembly is not in session, declare the state of war to defend the nation from aggression and request the National Assembly's approval of such decisions at its earliest session.

10. Decide on general or partial mobilization and declare the states of emergency in the entire nation or in each locality.

11. Implement the National Assembly's foreign policies.

12. Organize referendums based on the National Assembly's decisions.

Article 7: The National Assembly chairman has the following rights and duties:

1. Direct National Assembly sittings, guarantee the implementation of National Assembly deputy statutes and the internal regulations governing National Assembly proceedings, and ratify laws and resolutions adopted by the National Assembly.

2. Oversee the operations of the National Assembly Standing Committee, help prepare for and convene this committee's meetings, and direct its sittings.

3. Convene and direct the conference of the Nationalities Council chairman and heads of the various National Assembly committees to discuss the programs of actions of the National Assembly, the Nationalities Council and other National Assembly committees as well as attend the meetings of the Nationalities Council and other National Assembly committees, if necessary.

4. Maintain contacts with National Assembly deputies.

5. Direct and organize the implementation of the National Assembly's budget allocations.

6. Direct the implementation of the National Assembly's foreign policies, represent the National Assembly in the handling of foreign affairs, and guide the activities of the Vietnamese National Assembly delegation to the World Parliamentary Alliance.

Vice chairmen are to help the National Assembly chairman discharge his duties based on the latter's work assignment for them.

Article 8: The National Assembly Standing Committee guides, regulates, and coordinates the operations of the nationalities council and other committees of the National Assembly; and convenes and sponsors the National Assembly sessions.

The National Assembly Standing Committee is vested with the following duties and powers to prepare for the National Assembly sessions:

1. Estimates the agenda for the session as recommended by the president of the state, the government prime minister, the presiding judge of the people's supreme court, the chief procurator of the supreme people's organ of control, the nationalities council, and other National Assembly committees and deputies.

2. Guides, regulates, and coordinates the operations of agencies concerned with preparing the agenda of the session; and examines the formulation of bills, reports, and other projects for submission to the National Assembly.

3. Decides various issues related to the National Assembly session.

Article 9: The National Assembly Standing Committee submits the programs for making laws and regulations to the National Assembly for decision as proposed by various agencies, organizations, and individuals having the right to present bills as specified in article 62 of this law.

Article 10: The National Assembly Standing Committee issues regulations based on the programs for making law and regulations already approved by the National Assembly.

Those agencies, organizations, and individuals authorized to present bills before the National Assembly are also authorized to present draft regulations before the National Assembly Standing Committee.

The draft regulations must be reviewed by the nationalities council or the National Assembly committees concerned before submission to the National Assembly Standing Committee. If deemed necessary, the National Assembly Standing Committee may decide to send the draft regulations out for comments by the National Assembly deputies before passing them.

Article 11: The National Assembly Standing Commitee supervises the operations of the government, the supreme people's court, and the supreme people's organ of control in the enforcement of constitution, laws, regulations, and resolutions of the National Assembly and its Standing Committee.

The National Assembly Standing Committee will decide the program for quarterly and annual supervision, implement the program by itself or entrust the nationalities council and other committees of the National Assembly with the implementation; examine and discuss reports and petitions in performing its supervisory activities; and request individuals, organizations, and state agencies concerned to implement those petitions which it deems necessary.

Article 12: The National Assembly Standing Committee supervises and guides the operations of the people's councils, and will, on its own or as proposed by the government prime minister, the chief procurator of the supreme people's organ of control, the nationalities council and other National Assembly committees or deputies, rescind all erroneous resolutions of the people's councils of provinces and cities directly subordinate to the central government, and dissolve the people's councils of provinces and cities directly subordinate to the central government in case these councils cause serious harm to the people's interests.

Article 13: The National Assembly Standing Committee will on its own or as proposed by the nationalities council, other National Assembly committees or deputies, abrogate documents of the government, the prime minister, the supreme people court, and the supreme people's organ of control which conflict with the regulations and resolutions of the National Assembly; suspend the enforcement of documents of the government, the prime minister, the supreme people's court, and the supreme people's organ of control which conflict the constitution, laws, and resolutions of the National Assembly, and will submit them to the National Assembly for abrogation at the next session.

Article 14: When the National Assembly is not in session, the National Assembly Standing Committee will ratify the government prime minister's proposals for the appointmnent, dismissal, and demotion of deputy prime ministers, ministers, and other members of the government and report them to the National Assembly at its next session.

Article 15: When the National Assembly is not in session, as recommended by the national defense and security council, the National Assembly Standing Committee will decide on declarations of a state of war in case of an invasion, and will report it to the National Assembly at its next session for ratification, and will declare a state of emergency either countrywide or in each locality.

Article 16: Between two sessions of the National Assembly, the National Assembly Standing Committee will consider the actions taken by the prime minister, the presiding judge of the supreme people's court, and the chief procurator of the supreme people's organ of control to answer inquiries and implement petitions of the nationalities council and other National Assembly committees or deputies.

Article 17: The National Assembly Standing Committee will meet at least twice a month. The National Assembly chairman will provide for the agenda, guide the preparations, convene, and preside over the meetings of the Standing Committee.

Documents of the meetings must be sent to members of the National Assembly Standing Committee no later than seven days before the meetings.

Article 18: The National Assembly Standing Committee will work according to the parliamentary system and will decide by majority. Its regulations and resolutions must be voted and approved by more than half of its members, and must be made public no later than 15 days after passage, except when the president of the state asks the National Assembly to reconsider them.

Chapter III: Nationalities Council and National Assembly's Committees.

Article 19: The Nationalities Council and National Assembly's committees are organs of the National Assembly and shall be vested with the duties and powers to review draft laws, proposed laws, draft regulations and other drafts; check reports for the National Assembly and its Standing Committee; present ideas on the formulation of laws and regulations to the National Assembly and its Standing Committee; and inspect and make proposal on various issues in the framework of their duties and powers.

Article 20: The Nationalities Council has the following duties and powers:

1. Review draft laws, proposed laws, draft regulations and other drafts related to the nationalities issue.

2. Supervise the enforcement of laws, regulations, and resolutions of the National Assembly and its Standing Committee related to nationalities and socioeconomic development programs for the mountain region and areas of ethnic minorities, and manage the budget for these tasks.

3. Make proposals to the National Assembly on issues related to the policies on nationalities and on socioeconomic development programs for the mountain regions and areas of ethnic minorities.

Article 21: The National Assembly shall establish the following committees:

1. The Judiciary Committee;
2. The Economic and Budget Committee;
3. The National Defense and Security Committee;
4. The Committee for Culture, Education, Youth, Teenagers, and Children;
5. The Committee for Social Welfare Issues;
6. The Science, Technology, and Environment Committee; and
7. The Foreign Relations Commmittee.

Article 22: When warranted, the National Assembly shall set up a provisional committee to study and review a certain draft law or to investigate into a certain issue.

Article 23: The Judiciary Committee has the following duties and powers:

1. Review draft laws, proposed laws, and draft regulations related to the organization of state apparatuses responsible for crime suppression and civilian and

administrative affairs as well as plans for the formulation of laws and other regulations as requested by the National Assembly and its Standing Committee; participate in reviewing various drafts with the Nationalities Council and other Committees of the National Assembly to ensure the constitutionality, legality, and uniformity of the legal system.

2. Review proposals to set up or dissolve ministries or the corresponding organizations; proposals to merge, divide, establish, or adjust the boundaries of provinces and municipalities directly subordinate to the central government.

3. Supervise the enforcement of laws, regulations, and resolutions of the National Assembly and its Standing Committee concerning the organization of state apparatuses responsible for crime suppression and civilian and administrative affairs; supervise the promulgation of resolutions and decrees of the government, decisions and instructions of the prime minister, and documents of the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Organ of Control; and provide guidance in the implementation of laws concerning the control, trying, and inspection work of the Supreme People's Court and Supreme People's Organ of Control.

4. Make proposal on essential measures aimed at perfecting the legal system.

Article 24: The Economic and Budget Committee has the following duties and powers:

1. Review draft laws, proposed laws, draft regulations, and other drafts related to economic management, business activities, budget, and financial and monetary affairs.

2. Review socioeconomic development projects and plans, state budget estimate and distribution; check reports by the government on the implementation of socioeconomic development plans, the state budget, and on the final account of the state budget.

3. Supervise the implementation of laws, regulations, and resolutions of the National Assembly and its Standing Committee concerning economic management, business activities, budget, and financial and monetary affairs; and supervise the government in implementing state plans on socioeconomic development and budget spending.

4. Make proposals to the National Assembly on issues related to the socioeconomic development plan, economic management, budget, and financial and monetary affairs.

Article 25: The National Defense and Security Committee shall be vested with the following duties and powers:

1. To scrutinize draft laws, make suggestions on laws, draft regulations, and other draft documents in the national defense and security.

2. To supervise the enforcement of laws, regulations, and resolutions of the National Assembly as well as of the National Assembly Standing Committee in national defense and security; to supervise the implementation of national defense and security tasks as well as handling the budget earmarked for these areas.

3. To advise the National Assembly on national defense and security-related matters and other necessary measures aimed at exercising the duties and powers of the National Assembly as well as the National Assembly Standing Committee in national defense and security.

Article 26: The Committee for Culture, Education, Youths, Teenagers, and Children shall be vested with the following duties and powers:

1. To scrutinize draft laws; make suggestions about laws, draft regulations, and other draft documents in culture, education, information, sports, youths, teenagers, and children.

2. To supervise the enforcement of laws, regulations, and resolutions of the National Assembly as well as the National Assembly Standing Committee in culture, education, youths, teenagers, and children; to supervise the implementation of the cultural-educational policy in various national socioeconomic development plans and programs, and the policy toward youths, teenagers, and children; and to supervise the handling of the budget earmarked for these areas.

3. To advise the National Assembly on matters concerning the country's cultural and educational development and on the policy toward youths, teenagers, and children.

Article 27: The Committee For Social Welfare Issues shall be vested with the following duties and powers:

1. To scrutinize draft laws; make suggestions about laws, draft regulations, and other draft documents in social welfare affairs.

2. To supervise the enforcement of laws, regulations, and resolutions of the National Assembly as well as the National Assembly Standing Committee in social welfare affairs; to supervise the enforcement of the social welfare policy in various national socioeconomic development plans and programs as well as handling the budget earmarked for this area.

3. To advise the National Assembly on measures aimed at tackling various social welfare problems.

Article 28: The Science, Technology, and Environment Committee shall be vested with the following duties and powers:

1. To scrutinize draft laws; make suggestions about laws, draft regulations, and other draft documents in science, technology, and ecological protection.

2. To supervise the enforcement of laws, regulations, and resolutions of the National Assembly as well as the National Assembly Standing Committee in science, technology, and ecological protection; supervise the implementation of the policy for scientific and technological

development and ecological protection in various national socioeconomic development plans and programs; and supervise the handling of the budget earmarked for these areas.

3. To advise the National Assembly on the policy for investment in scientific and technological development and ecological protection.

Article 29: The Foreign Relations Committee shall be vested with the following duties and powers:

1. To scrutinize draft laws; make suggestions about laws, draft regulations, and other draft documents in the state's foreign relations, as well as on international laws and judicial practices.

2. To supervise the enforcement of laws, regulations, and resolutions of the National Assembly as well as the National Assembly Standing Committee in foreign relations; to supervise the activities of the government in exercising its foreign relations policy as well as foreign relations activities of the various sectors and localities.

3. To realize and help the National Assembly realize its foreign relations with the national assemblies of various countries and with the International Parliamentary Alliance.

4. To advise the National Assembly on matters concerning national foreign policies and on its relations with the national assemblies of various countries, with the International Parliamentary Alliance, and with other international organizations.

Article 30: The activity programs of the Nationalities Council and other committees of the National Assembly shall be decided by the council and the committees concerned, based on the constitution, laws, regulations, and resolutions of the National Assembly and the National Assembly Standing Committee as well as on the operational guidance provided by the National Assembly Standing Committee.

Article 31: The Nationalities Council and other committees of the National Assembly have the right to request cabinet members, the chief justice of the Supreme People's Court, the procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control, and other state officials concerned to supply documents or to present those issues under the review or scrutiny of the Council and the committees concerned. Those requested to do so by the Council or by other committees of the National Assembly shall respond to such a request.

Article 32: When necessary, the Nationalities Council and other committees of the National Assembly may send their members to relevant agencies and organizations to investigate and examine those issues in which they are interested. Relevant agencies or organizations are responsible for creating conditions for members of the council or other committees of the National Assembly to exercise their duties.

Article 33: The Nationalities Council and other committees of the National Assembly have the right to request the prime minister and other cabinet members, the chief justice of the Supreme People's Court, the procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control, or the chairmen of the people's committees of those provinces and municipalities under the central authority to advise them on matters which fall within their duties and powers. Recipients of such a request are responsible for examining and answering it within 15 days at the latest, starting from the date of receipt of the request. If the recipients fail to answer it before the deadline or if their answers are not acceptable, the council or the committees concerned have the right to refer this matter to the chairman of the National Assembly so that he can ask the recipients for an answer at the next meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee or the National Assembly.

Article 34: The Nationalities Council and other committees of the National Assembly shall set up subcommittees to study and prepare those matters which fall within their areas. The heads of these subcommittees shall be members of the council or other relevant committees. Other members of these subcommittees may not be members of the council and other relevant committees or National Assembly deputies.

Chapter IV: National Assembly Deputies.

Article 35: National Assembly deputies shall be persons who represent the will and aspirations of the people—not only those in the constituencies from which they have been elected but also in the entire country. They shall be persons who will, on behalf of the people, exercise the state's powers in the National Assembly.

Article 36: The term of office of National Assembly deputies in each legislature shall last from the first session of that legislature until the first session of the next legislature.

Article 37: Among the National Assembly deputies, there shall be people working in specialized and nonspecialized fields. The number of National Assembly deputies working in specialized fields shall be decided upon by the National Assembly.

Article 38: National Assembly deputies shall be responsible to their constituencies and the National Assembly, for the way they discharge their duties as deputies.

National Assembly deputies shall set their examples in complying with the Constitution and the law; lead a wholesome life; observe those principles governing public life; protect the legitimate rights and interests of citizens; and contribute to developing the people's right to mastery.

National Assembly deputies shall be duty-bound to propagate and disseminate the law; and motivate the people to comply with the law and to participate in state management.

Article 39: Deputies have the duty to attend National Assembly sittings, participate in discussions, and make decisions on issues falling under the National Assembly's rights and duties as stipulated under Articles 1 and 2 of this law.

Article 40: Deputies must attend National Assembly plenary sessions as well as other sessions held by the various National Assembly councils, committees, groups, and delegations and must also debate and vote on all issues on the agendas.

Article 41: Deputies have the right to present draft laws and bills to the National Assembly as well as draft regulations in the order and according to the procedures set by law.

Article 42: Deputies have the right to question the head of state, the National Assembly chairman, the prime minister and other members of the government, and the Chief Procurators of the Supreme People's Court and Supreme People's Organ of Control. Those questioned must give answers.

When the National Assembly is in session, deputies can send their questions to the National Assembly chairman. Those questioned must give answers during that very session of the National Assembly. If an investigation is pending, the National Assembly may make arrangements for those questioned to give answers before its Standing Committee or at the next National Assembly session, or to make written replies.

During the period between the two National Assembly sessions, questions should be forwarded to the agencies or individuals concerned via the National Assembly Standing Committee, which will set dates for the questions to be answered.

If they are not satisfied with the answers, deputies may request the National Assembly chairman to bring the issues before the National Assembly or its Standing Committee for debates.

The National Assembly or its Standing Committee may issue resolutions asking for answers and determining the responsibilities of the parties involved, if necessary.

Article 43: Deputies must maintain close contacts with voters, accept their supervision, hold regular meetings with them, understand their feelings and aspirations, and pool and correctly reflect their opinions to the National Assembly and other state agencies concerned. Deputies must keep voters informed of their activities at least once a year. Voters have the right to ask deputies to give an account of their work performance and may do so themselves or by requesting the Fatherland Front to do it on their behalf. They also may make comments on the work performance of deputies.

Article 44: After receiving people's petitions, complaints, or denunciations, the deputies must study and forward them to the agencies in charge and must also oversee and monitor the ways those cases are handled. The state agencies concerned should keep the deputies informed of the investigation results.

If they believe that the results are unsatisfactory, deputies have the right to meet the heads of the agencies in charge for further investigations or reviews. Deputies also have the right to ask the heads of the agencies above the agencies concerned to handle the issues themselves, if necessary.

Deputies are responsible for keeping those making petitions, complaints, or denunciations informed of investigation results.

Article 45: Upon discovering cases of law violations which are detrimental to state property or the legitimate interests of socioeconomic establishments, military organizations, and citizens, deputies have the right to request the agencies, organizations, units, and individuals concerned to take necessary measures to put an end to those illegal activities. The agencies, organizations, units, and individuals concerned are responsible for keeping the deputies informed of the investigation results.

Article 46: In performing their duties, National Assembly deputies may contact state agencies, social and economic organizations, and armed units. Heads of these agencies, organizations and units, within the limits of their functions and duties, are responsible for receiving and meeting the demands of National Assembly deputies.

Article 47: National Assembly deputies may attend the meetings of the people's councils of their constituencies, and may express their views but they may not vote.

The people's council chairmen will notify National Assembly deputies of the dates of their council meetings, invite deputies to attend the meetings and provide them with necessary documents.

Article 48: National Assembly deputies are elected in a province or city directly subordinate to the central government, and they will form a National Assembly delegation. A National Assembly delegation can have a delegation head and a deputy head to organize the operations of the delegation and maintain relations with the National Assembly chairman, the National Assembly Standing Committee, the local administration agencies, the fatherland front committees and other agencies and organizations in localities concerning all matters related to the activities of National Assembly deputies.

Each National Assembly delegation can have one or two deputies working full time.

Article 49: National Assembly deputies who no longer deserve the people's confidence, may be impeached by the National Assembly or voters depending on the gravity of their mistakes.

National Assembly deputies will be impeached by either the National Assembly or voters as decided by the

National Assembly Standing Committee and as proposed by the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee, the provincial fatherland front or voters.

In case of an impeachment by the National Assembly, it must be voted and approved by two thirds of the total number of National Assembly deputies.

Article 50: National Assembly deputies may resign for health and other reasons. The resignation of National Assembly deputies will be decided by the National Assembly or by its Standing Committee if the National Assembly is not in session and will be reported to the National Assembly at its next session.

Those National Assembly deputies who are sentenced to imprisonment by a court will lose their rights effective from the day the verdict comes into effect.

Article 51: Without the approval of the National Assembly and when the National Assembly is not in session, and without the approval of the standing committee, National Assembly deputies will not be arrested, detained and prosecuted, and their homes and offices will not be searched. The right to propose the arrest, detention and prosecution of National Assembly deputies and the search of their homes and offices rest with the chief procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control.

If National Assembly deputies are caught red handed and detained temporarily, the detaining agencies must report it immediately to the National Assembly or its Standing Committee for consideration and decision.

National Assembly deputies cannot be demoted or forced to resign by the state agencies and units in localities where they work without prior approval of the National Assembly Standing Committee.

Article 52: Full-time working National Assembly deputies are provided offices and other conditions necessary to their operations.

State agencies, social and economic organizations in localities where National Assembly deputies work full time, are responsible for receiving the deputies and organizing work for them to perform until the end of their office term.

The period during which National Assembly deputies work full time will be accounted for as continuous length of service.

National Assembly deputies who do not work full time must devote at least on third of their time to discharging their tasks as deputies. State agencies and organizations in localities where the deputies work must create conditions for the deputies to fulfill their duties.

National Assembly deputies' wages and other allowances will be determined by the National Assembly Standing Committee.

Chapter V: National Assembly Session

Article 53: The National Assembly will hold two regular sessions each year.

Special sessions can be convened by the president of the state, the government prime minister or at least one third of the total number of National Assembly deputies, or as decided by the National Assembly Standing Committee alone.

Article 54: The National Assembly Standing Committee will outline the agenda of various National Assembly sessions. The Standing Committee of the current National Assembly will outline the agenda for the first session of the new legislature.

Article 55: The National Assembly Standing Committee must give at least 30 days notice before a regular session can be held or at least seven days notice before a special session can be held.

The agenda of the session will be sent together with the decision to convene the session to all National Assembly deputies.

Article 56: The first session of a new legislature will be convened by the preceding National Assembly Standing Committee no later than 60 days after the election day.

The first session of a new legislature will be inaugurated and presided over by the current National Assembly chairman until a new chairman can be elected for the new legislature.

Article 57: The agenda of its session is decided by the National Assembly itself.

National Assembly deputies may recommend changes in and addenda to the approved agenda. Changes in and addenda to the agenda must be voted and approved by more than half of the total number of deputies.

Article 58: The National Assembly will hold its sessions in public. It can hold closed-door meetings as recommended by the president of the state and the government prime minister or as decided by one third of the total number of National Assembly deputies.

Article 59: The various issues in the agenda of the National Assembly session are debated and decided at various plenary meetings. In case of necessity, the National Assembly can decide to hold debates in the nationalities council and other committees or in various groups and delegations of National Assembly deputies.

Article 60: Government members who are not National Assembly deputies may be invited to attend the plenary meetings of the National Assembly, and may make statements on the issues concerning the sectors and domains of which they are in charge as requested by the National Assembly or as proposed by those members with prior approval of the National Assembly.

Article 61: Representatives of the state agencies, social and economic organizations, armed units, press agencies, citizens and foreign guests may be invited to attend open meetings of the National Assembly.

Article 62: The president of the state, the National Assembly Standing Committee, the nationalities council and other committees of the National Assembly, the government, the supreme people's court, the Vietnam Fatherland Front and its member organizations, and National Assembly deputies may present bills before the National Assembly.

The right to present bills can be carried out by submitting new bills, amended bills and addenda to current laws.

National Assembly deputies can exercise their right to petition by petitioning the promulgation of new laws or changes in and addenda to current laws.

Article 63: The National Assembly will make decisions on the formulation of laws and regulations for each legislature and in each year at the recommendation of the National Assembly Standing Committee.

All bills, prior to their submission to the National Assembly, must be reviewed by the Nationalities Council or the National Assembly's committees concerned with recommendation of the National Assembly Standing Committee. These bills must be forwarded to National Assembly deputies 20 days before the convening of the National Assembly session at the latest.

Article 64: The National Assembly shall consider bills after hearing reports by agencies, organizations, or individuals who submitted them. It shall also hear investigative reports on these bills by the National Assembly councils or committees concerned. Afterwards, the National Assembly will hold debates and vote on approving these bills. The chairman of each National Assembly session, based on ideas expressed by National Assembly deputies in their debates, shall propose issues on which to be voted and the method of voting to be used to the National Assembly. The National Assembly shall approve bills through a system of voting for each article and chapter separately, and then the entire bill or bills as a whole.

Article 65: The National Assembly shall decide on long-term and annual national socioeconomic development plans, policies on national financial and monetary affairs, and procedures on state budget estimates and distributions.

The government shall present to the National Assembly, at its year-end session, the draft plans on socioeconomic development and on budget estimates and distributions for the new year.

The National Assembly shall approve the final account of the state budget presented by the government one year after the last fiscal year at the latest.

Drafts of these plans and policies must be forwarded to National Assembly deputies 10 days before the convening of the National Assembly at the latest.

Article 66: The National Assembly shall consider these drafts after hearing reports by the government and investigative reports by the National Assembly's councils and committees concerned. Afterwards, the National Assembly will hold debates and vote to approve these drafts.

The National Assembly shall approve drafts through a system of voting separately for each issue first, and finally for the entire draft or drafts.

Article 67: The National Assembly shall examine and discuss work reports of its Standing Committee, of the Prime Minister, the chief judge of the Supreme People's Court, and the chief procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control at its year-end session. Prior to the mid-year session, these agencies must forward their work reports to National Assembly deputies. The National Assembly may examine and discuss these mid-year work reports as warranted.

The National Assembly may issue resolutions on the activities of the agencies that have filed their work reports.

Article 68: At the last session of each National Assembly's legislature, the National Assembly shall examine and discuss work reports on the whole term of the National Assembly and of the President of the State, the National Assembly Standing Committee, the prime minister, the chief judge of the Supreme People's Court, and the chief procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control.

The work report on the entire term of the National Assembly will be prepared by the National Assembly chairman, based on reports from the National Assembly Standing Committee, the Nationalities Council, other Committees of the National Assembly, and deputies of the National Assembly.

Article 69: At the first session of each National Assembly's legislature, the National Assembly shall elect a Credentials Committee comprising a chairman, a vice chairman, and its members selected from among National Assembly deputies at the recommendation of the last National Assembly chairman.

The National Assembly, based on reports of the Credentials Committee, shall recognize the validity of National Assembly deputies or announce the invalidity of certain deputies.

The Credentials Committee will end its term of office after completing the task of recognizing the validity of all National Assembly deputies.

Article 70: The National Assembly shall elect its chairman, vice chairmen, and members of its Standing Committee from among the National Assembly deputies compiled in a list by the last National Assembly Standing Committee.

The number of vice chairmen of the National Assembly and members of the National Assembly Standing Committee will be determined by the National Assembly.

Article 71: The National Assembly shall elect the president of the state from among the National Assembly deputies at the recommentation of the National Assembly Standing Committee.

The National Assembly, at the recommendation of the president of the state, shall elect a vice president from among the National Assembly deputies; and shall approve the establishment of the National Defense and Security Council.

Article 72: The National Assembly shall elect a chairman, vice chairmen, and members of the Nationalities Council from among the National Assembly deputies at the recommendation of the National Assembly chairman made in the form of namelist specifying names and positions.

The number of vice chairmen and members of the Nationalities Council and the number of persons who will work on a full-time basis will be determined by the National Assembly.

Article 73: The National Assembly shall elect heads, deputy heads, and members of committees of the National Assembly from among the National Assembly deputies at the recommendation of the National Assembly Chairman, made in the form of namelist specifying names and positions.

The number of deputy heads and members of each committee, as well as the number of persons who will work on a full-time basis, will be determined by the National Assembly.

Article 74: The National Assembly shall elect a prime minister from among the National Assembly deputies at the recommendation of the president of the state.

The National Assembly shall approve the prime minister's recommendation on the appointment of deputy prime ministers, ministers, and other members of the government, made in the form of a namelist specifying names and positions.

Article 75: The National Assembly shall elect the chief judge of the Supreme People's Court and chief procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control from among the National Assembly deputies at the recommendation of the president of the state.

Article 76: The National Assembly shall elect the secretariat of each National Assembly's legislature comprising a chief and members of the secretariat from among the National Assembly deputies at the recommendation of the National Assembly chairman.

This secretariat has the following duties and powers:

1. Establish records on proceedings of the National Assembly sessions and meetings, prepare communiques of National Assembly sessions, and compile ideas of National Assembly deputies expressed at various National Assembly sessions.

2. Coordinate with the Nationalities Council, National Assembly's committees, and agencies concerned to revise draft laws and resolutions before submission to the National Assembly.

3. Carry out other tasks assigned by the National Assembly chairman.

The last National Assembly chairman shall appoint a provisional secretariat to handle the secretarial work for the first session of the National Assembly's new legislature until the new secretariat is appointed.

Article 77: At the first session of each National Assembly's legislature, the National Assembly Standing Committee, the prime minister, the chief judge of the Supreme People's Court, and chief procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control shall report on the activities of their agencies from the last session of the old National Assembly to the first session of the new National Assembly.

Article 78: Laws and resolutions passed by the National Assembly must be approved by more than 50 percent of the total National Assembly deputies. To impeach National Assembly deputies, to reduce or extend the term of the National Assembly, or to amend the constitution, it is necessary to have the approval of two-thirds of the total number of National Assembly deputies.

Laws and resolutions of the National Assembly must be signed by the National Assembly chairman and promulgated by the President of the State 15 days from the date of approval at the latest.

Chapter VI: Assistant Apparatus and Budget of the National Assembly

Article 79: The National Assembly Standing Committee shall establish an assistant apparatus of the National Assembly to help carry out work of the National Assembly Standing Committee, the Nationalities Council, and other committees of the National Assembly.

The organization and duties of this apparatus will be determined by the National Assembly Standing Committee.

Article 80: The budget of the National Assembly is an independent allotment in the state budget. The budget is discussed and approved by the National Assembly at its year-end session.

The National Assembly Chairman shall provide guidance and organize the implementation of the National Assembly budget.

Chapter VII: The Final Clause

Article 81: This law supersedes the law on organization of the National Assembly and the Council of State dated 3 July 1981.

This law was approved by the SRV Eighth National Assembly's 11th session on 15 April 1992.

[Signed] Le Quang Dao, chairman of the National Assembly.

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